FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-020
Tuesday
2 February 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-020 CONTENTS *2 February 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Top Japanese Uniformed Officer Arrives in Cambodia *[KYODO]* 1
Alatas, Prasong Discuss Cambodian Peace Settlement *[BERNAMA]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Spokesman Denies Tokyo Summit Switched to Apr *[KYODO]* 2
Diet Panel Approves Watanabe's U.S. Trip *[KYODO]* 2
BOJ on Links to Clinton Nominee Tyson *[KYODO]* 2
Okinawa Journalists Protest Against Training *[OKINAWA TIMES 26 Jan]* 2
Philippine Foreign Secretary Romulo Arrives *[KYODO]* 3
Former Soviet Republics Seek Foreign Aid *[KYODO]* 3
Companies To Join Turkmenistan Gas Project *[KYODO]* 3
Russian Far East Minorities Invited to Tokyo *[KYODO]* 3
Tokyo To Help Mongolia's Economic Transition *[KYODO]* 4
Tokyo 'Worried' Over Phnom Penh Offensive *[KYODO]* 4
    Military Tension 'Heightened' *[KYODO]* 4
    Phnom Penh Troops Pull Back *[KYODO]* 5
Introduction of Small Constituency System Urged *[Tokyo TV]* 5
Kono Refutes Mitsuzuka on Political Reform *[Tokyo TV]* 6
SDPJ Threatens To Boycott Diet Over Scandal *[Tokyo TV]* 6
Opposition Agrees on Special Panel on Scandal *[KYODO]* 6
Speedy Summoning of Sagawa Witnesses Rejected *[KYODO]* 7
LDP, Opposition Fail To Break 'Impasse' *[KYODO]* 7
LDP To Call Politicians To Break Stalemate *[KYODO]* 7
Plan Surfaces for Ozawa To Testify to Diet *[KYODO]* 8
LDP Candidates Win in Kitakyushu Polls *[KYODO]* 8
Sato Opposed to Cut in Official Discount Rate *[KYODO]* 9
Hayami Urges Early Cut in Discount Rate *[KYODO]* 9
BOJ Official on Effects of Past Rate Cuts *[KYODO]* 9
Hiraiwa Seeks Additional Economic Package *[KYODO]* 9
Tax Commision Head 'Negative' About Tax Cut *[KYODO]* 10
Ministry Official Doubts Economy Has Worsened *[KYODO]* 10
Hayashi Studying Factors Regarding Rate Cuts *[KYODO]* 10
EPA Survey Reveals Drop in FY '92 Spending *[KYODO]* 11
Mori Urges 'Bold' Monetary Step for Economy *[KYODO]* 11
Vehicle Sales Said To Fall *[KYODO]* 12
Bankruptcy Ruling Sought for Dietman Higashi *[KYODO]* 12

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Production of Daily Necessities *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
CPRF Details U.S. Nuclear Weapons in South *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Envoy to Russia Links Team Spirit, Nuclear Issues *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
PRC Signs Cultural Exchange Agreement 17
Friendship Organization Inaugurated in Japan *[KCNA]* 17

South Korea

- Reportage on Visit by Vietnamese Foreign Minister 18
  - Economy, Technology Accord Signed *[Seoul Radio]* 18
  - Ministers Hold Talks *[YONHAP]* 18
  - Minister Meets No Tae-u *[YONHAP]* 18
  - Kim Yong-sam Vows Expanded Ties *[YONHAP]* 18
  - Hanoi Accord on Business Ties *[YONHAP]* 19
- Russia, DPRK Reportedly To Revise Friendship Treaty *[Seoul Radio]* 19
- ROK, EC, Japan To Coordinate U.S. Steel Tariffs Response *[YONHAP]* 19
  - Protest Letter Readied *[YONHAP]* 19
- Security Agency To Shift Focus to Economic Collection *[CHUNGANG ILBO 2 Feb]* 20
- Kong No-myong Urges North To Return to Dialogue *[Seoul Radio]* 20
- Source Says Military May Increase Panmunjom Security *[YONHAP]* 21
- No Business Visits To North Pending Espionage Apology *[YONHAP]* 21
- Study Details Restructured Post-Unification Military *[YONHAP]* 21
- * New Earth Satellite Prepared *[CHUGAN MAEGYONG 30 Dec]* 22
- Russia Pays Back Partial Interest on Loans *[YONHAP]* 25
- Hyundai Heavy Industries President Indicted *[THE KOREA TIMES 31 Jan]* 25
- Delegates To Attend Asia-Pacific Disarmament Seminar *[YONHAP]* 25
- * Kim Yong-sam Victory To Redraw Political Map 26
  - * Big Change in DLP *[TONGA ILBO 21 Dec]* 26
  - * Changes in the Opposition *[HANGUK ILBO 21 Dec]* 27
  - * Kim Yong-sam's 'Kingmakers' *[HANGUK ILBO 20 Dec]* 28

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Qian Qichen Arrives, Issues Press Release *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
  - Khin Nyunt Hosts Dinner *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
- Reportage on Progess of National Convention 31
  - Delegate Arrested for Jade Possession *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
  - Delegate Removed at Request of NLD *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
  - Panel Chairmen Elected *[Rangoon Radio]* 31
  - Chief Justice Speaks *[Rangoon TV]* 33
- 955 Refugees Repatriated From Bangladesh 31 Jan *[Rangoon Radio]* 34

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

- Government Wants More Bruneians Hired *[THE BORNEO BULLETIN 21 Dec]* 34

Malaysia

- Indian Defense Minister Arrives 1 Feb *[Delhi Radio]* 35
  - Defense Memorandum Signed *[BERNAMA]* 35
  - Delhi Reports Defense Agreement 35

Singapore

- Development Accords Signed With Indonesia *[Singapore Radio]* 36
- Lee Kuan Yew on China-Taiwan Reunification *[THE STRAITS TIMES 30 Jan]* 36

Cambodia

- 30th MMWG Meeting Ends 'Without Success' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 37
- Circular Issued on Neutral Political Atmosphere *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
- SNC Meeting in Beijing 28 Jan Reported *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39
- Chea Sim Allegedly Remains Vietnam's Puppet *[Radio VGNUFC]* 40

- Akashi: Fair Elections To Prevent Civil War *[Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST 31 Jan]* 41
- 'Savage', 'Cruel' Actions of Khmer Rouge Noted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 41
- UNTAC Accused of Menacing Regional Security *[Radio VGNUFC]* 42
- Government Troops Launch 'Major Offensive' *[AFP]* 43
  - Forces Remain in 'Tense Standoff' *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Feb]* 43
  - KR Claim UN Helped Offensive *[AFP]* 44
  - Shellings of Pailin Continue *[KYODO]* 44
- Battambang Said To Face Food Shortage *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 45
- Minister on Refusal To Try PDK Fighter *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46
- UNTAC To Continue Holding Murder Suspects *[AFP]* 47
- Sihanouk Plans Return to Phnom Penh 10 Feb *[AFP]* 47
- Commentary Previews Future Sihanouk Leadership *[Bangkok THE NATION 1 Feb]* 48

Indonesia

- Thai Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Feb *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Feb]* 49
  - Talks With Suharto, Ali Alatas *[Jakarta Radio]* 49
- Reportage on Trial of E. Timor Rebel Leader 50
  - Commentary Views Xanana Trial *[Jakarta Radio]* 50
  - Reason for Amnesty Ban Given *[ANTARA]* 50
  - Legislator Deplores Foreigners' 'Fuss' *[ANTARA]* 50
  - Trial Attracts Wide Attention *[Melbourne International]* 51
  - Australian Envoy on Troops in Timor *[Melbourne International]* 52
- Businessmen Close Deal To Rescue Troubled Bank *[THE JAKARTA POST 16 Jan]* 52
  - Efforts To Save Bank Viewed *[KOMPAS 21 Jan]* 53

Laos

- PRC's Qian Qichen Views Ties, Cambodia *[Vientiane Radio]* 54
- Minister Discusses Justice Work in Society *[PASASON 26 Jan]* 54

Philippines

- Radio Interviews Rebel Leader Honasan *[Manila Radio]* 55
- Ramos: Panel Authorized To Negotiate With RAM *[Quezon City TV]* 59
  - Further on Panel's Power *[MALAYA 2 Feb]* 59
- Military: MNLF Using Truce To Recruit *[MALAYA 2 Feb]* 59
- Muslim Rebels: Peace Talks Most Important *[Manila Radio]* 60

Thailand

- PRC's Qian Qichen Stops, Discusses Cambodia *[XING XIAN RIBAO 2 Feb]* 60
- Bangkok Radio Sees 'Hope for Peace' in Cambodia 60
- Spokesman Anticipates Exodus From Cambodia *[Bangkok Radio]* 60
  - Minister Pledges To Keep Refugees Out *[Bangkok Radio]* 61
- Cambodians 'Continually Change' Positions *[Bangkok Radio]* 61
- Paper Interviews Air Chief Marshal Kaset *[PHU CHATKAN 27 Jan]* 61

Vietnam

- Hanoi Calls For Lifting of U.S. Embargo *[Hanoi International]* 68
  - U.S. Public Said Against Embargo *[Hanoi International]* 68
- Premier Views Relations With ROK, Other Issues *[Seoul TV]* 69
- Vatican Official To Visit, Focus on Ties *[AFP]* 71
  - Vatican Envoy Arrives 1 Feb *[AFP]* 72

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

- Current Account Deficit Falls 25% in Dec *[Melbourne International]* 73

Papua New Guinea

Government May Pay To Deport Bougainville Rebels *[Melbourne International]* 73
Bougainville Rebels Claim Six Killed *[Melbourne International]* 73

Solomon Islands

Official Rejects Report on Illegal Bougainvillians *[Melbourne International]* 73

Top Japanese Uniformed Officer Arrives in Cambodia

OW0202111793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japan's highest-ranking uniformed officer Admiral Makoto Sakuma arrived here Tuesday to inspect SDF [Self-Defense Force] personnel in Cambodia to help United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Sakuma, chairman of the Joint Staff Council of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), will stay in Cambodia until Thursday.

During his stay, Sakuma will meet Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, and pay a courtesy call on Lt. Gen. John Sanderson, the Australian military commander directing U.N. military operations. He will visit Japanese SDF engineers stationed in the southern province of Takeo.

Alatas, Prasong Discuss Cambodian Peace Settlement

BK0202092293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0804 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 2 (BERNAMA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas today called to all parties involved in the Cambodian peace process to consider adjustment to suit with developments that have been taken place in that country. Ali who also co-chaired the Paris agreement on Cambodia signed by warring parties in 1991 said the idea was discussed at his talks with his Thai counterpart Prasong Sunsiri.

Prasong arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit during which he also called on President Suharto and hold talks with ASEAN Secretary General Datuk Ajit Singh.

Ali said adjustment was particularly needed after the Khmer Rouge confirmed its boycotting the planned general election in Cambodia in April or May this year.

Prasong supported the idea and added that all non-Cambodian parties involved in the peace process have to be more patient in dealing with developments in Cambodia. Ali said most important now was to adjust Paris accord implementation with condition and situation on the field after Khmer Rouge refused to participate. He said the refusal would make it not anymore necessary to impose cantonment concept as well as to enforce the laying down of arms as demanded by the Paris accord. The UN peace-keeping forces would therefore have to adjust with safeguarding the performance of the general election instead of taking guard of the cantonments he said this is what I mean by adjustment, he added.

In principle there was no basic changes in the Paris accord in connection with developments in the field. Indonesia, for example would continue sending its security contingent to Cambodia under the UN peace mission .

Ali said said Indonesia in its capacity as co-chairman of the Paris agreement on Cambodia could not do much before a decision is made by the UN Security Council on what further steps should be taken to solve the Cambodian problem. However, Indonesia could not just leave the poblem to the Cambodian people to solve by themselves although over part is only to help and not to dictate them of what to do, he said.

Ali said Indonesia remains committed with the Paris accord which required the setting up of a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the country' Supreme National Council (SNC) and other chapters. In his view the problem was not an easy one to be settled at one or two glimpses.

Prasong said settlement of the problem required great patient and strong endeavours by all parties seeking peaceful outcome. That is why we in ASEAN have been making all efforts and approaches in seeking a comprehensive and peaceful settlement to the Cambodian problem, he said. He said Thailand and other ASEAN countries have appealed and insisted the Khmer Rouge to participate in the peace process together with the other Cambodian parties. But if they remain rejecting, let them do by their own way as we outsiders have no right to interfere or influence any faction to accept our proposal, Prasong said.

He said Thailand would continue seeking the opportunity to open the eyes of the Khmer Rouge as well as other parties of the benefit they would ripe from peace process. We can help them but the decision is all theirs as outsiders have no right to interfere in Cambodian internal matters, he said.

Ali seconded the idea and said ASEAN would support all efforts by Prince Norodom Sihanouk including his decision to call for a presidential election following general election.

Like has been stated by Minister Prasong, Indonesia also will not dictate the people of Cambodia or the leaders to accept our proposal because we only want to help them in the peaceful settlement of the problem, he said.

Japan

Spokesman Denies Tokyo Summit Switched to Apr

OW0202045493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Top government spokesman Yohei Kono on Tuesday denied that this year's Tokyo summit meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations will be held in April instead of July.

Kono was responding to reports from Brussels that Jacques Delors, president of the European Community Commission, has called for the annual summit to be held in April to cope with world economic problems as quickly as possible.

"The Japanese Government has not received any such request. We are preparing to discuss the agenda and other relevant matters for the Tokyo summit (in July)," Kono said.

Leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States are scheduled to meet July 7 to 9 in Tokyo.

Diet Panel Approves Watanabe's U.S. Trip

OW0202064393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's February 11-14 trip to the United States received approval Tuesday from the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Administration.

Foreign Ministry officials said Watanabe will meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other senior U.S. officials.

A meeting with President Bill Clinton is also a possibility, ministry sources said.

BOJ on Links to Clinton Nominee Tyson

OW0202083993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Tuesday said it provided a research subsidy to the University of California in 1991, not individually to then-economics professor Laura D. Tyson, President Bill Clinton's nominee for chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The central bank was reacting to a report submitted by Tyson to the U.S. Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Committee reviewing President Bill Clinton's decision nominating her as chairwoman of the Presidential Council. The bank said it has contributed financial assistance to the university at Berkeley in gratitude for accepting bank employees as trainees for a long period.

The bank said it was not informed about how its monetary contributions were used by the university.

Okinawa Journalists Protest Against Training

OW0102081893 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 26 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] One month has passed since an incident occurred involving an American soldier of the U.S. Army Special Forces who mistakenly landed in the garden of a private house during a parachute jump training on the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield last December. However, U.S. forces in Okinawa have since been silent about the cause of the incident.

The Okinawa Press Club, in its letter addressed to the U.S. Army in Okinawa on 3 January, asked for a meeting with a responsible officer and requested: 1) an investigation be launched to find why the incident occurred; 2) measures be taken for the victim of the incident; 3) steps be taken to prevent a recurrence of the incident; and 4) clarification be made about who was responsible for causing apprehensions among the residents.

In response to this request, the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Army in Okinawa said on 25 January: "After the incident occurred, our commander has been on a 20-day official trip from 19 January and this has delayed a settlement of the incident. We will clearly respond to the request of the Okinawa Press Club by early next week." The Public Affairs Office, however, declined to make clear whether the U.S. Army in Okinawa will comply with the request from the Okinawa Press Club for a meeting with a responsible officer.

In connection with the incident, the Public Affairs Office has said that the U.S. Army in Okinawa has notified the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau of the cause of the incident, but the Public Relations Office of the bureau has said that the bureau never received the notification from the U.S. Army in Okinawa. The U.S. Army in Okinawa apologized to the victim and Yomitan-Son for the incident, but made no mention about why the incident occurred. Nonetheless, the U.S. Army in Okinawa planned a similar parachute drop training on 18 January, but the training was suspended because of bad weather.

The incident occurred on 22 December last year when an American soldier of the U.S. Army Special Forces in Okinawa mistakenly landed in the garden of a private house, about one km away from the drop point, during the parachute jump training. The mistaken drop caused no injuries, but resulted in a tense situation when residents and officials of Yomitan-Son, who demonstrated against the parachute jump training, surrounded the American soldier.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Romulo Arrives

OW0202131893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a five-day visit for talks with Japanese Government officials.

Romulo will meet Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday.

Philippine officials say Romulo's visit will focus on trade, official development assistance and investment.

Romulo may take up Manila's claim for compensation for Philippine women, who had been forced as so-called "comfort women" to provide sex to Japanese soldiers at frontline camps during World War II, diplomatic sources said.

He is also scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Thursday.

Former Soviet Republics Seek Foreign Aid

OW0102101093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Four former Soviet republics are seeking to become eligible for official foreign aid, a Japanese Foreign Ministry source said Monday.

The requests by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova follows recognition by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of five other former Soviet republics in central Asia as eligible recipients last November.

The Paris-based Development Assistance Committee coordinates policies among the 24 OECD member countries over foreign aid.

The committee is now reviewing the list of official aid recipients and is expected to make a decision on whether to add the four republics to the list, the source said.

Japan supports their becoming eligible as it could help promote economic and political reforms, the source said.

In general, official aid recipients must be developing countries with less than a certain level of per-capita gross national product, a requirement which could make it difficult for the four to obtain recipient status, the source said.

The source also cited as another hurdle fears among some aid donors that disbursements to former Soviet republics could be made at the expense of developing countries in Asia and Africa.

Companies To Join Turkmenistan Gas Project

OW0102000993 Tokyo KYODO in English 2337 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Marubeni Corp. and Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan are to join a large-scale natural gas exporting project in Turkmenistan, which plans to construct a 5,200-kilometer pipeline to Europe, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Monday.

The major economic daily said the two trading houses have received a letter of agreement from Gasprom, Turkmenistan's state-run enterprise, to jointly draw up a basic plan for the project.

The trading houses will start feasibility studies this month, it said, adding Turkmenistan plans to form an international consortium for the project within this year.

Major gas companies from Germany and Austria as well as some American engineering companies are also expected to join the consortium.

The former Soviet republic plans to export natural gas to European countries using the long pipeline running through such countries as Turkey and Bulgaria. It aims to complete the project in the year 2000, the paper added.

It said Turkmenistan produces 80 million to 85 million cubic meters of natural gas per year, making the country second only to Russia in terms of natural gas output.

Turkmenistan, estimating the project cost will exceed 7 billion dollars, is seeking official development assistance from developed nations including Japan, the paper added.

Russian Far East Minorities Invited to Tokyo

OW0102090593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—A Japanese academic group said Monday it has invited representatives of ethnic minorities from the Russian Far East to a symposium on ways to achieve economic independence.

The Eurasian Club said 14 people from the Sea of Japan rim region, including village chiefs, scholars and heads of fishing and hunting associations, will arrive in Japan on Friday [5 February].

The symposium will be held on February 10 in Tokyo.

Officials said the aim is to discuss ways of promoting local industries in their regions and to protect cultural legacies.

There are tens of thousands of indigenous people in the Sea of Japan rim and the Khabarovsk region.

But the collapse of the Soviet Union and moves toward market-oriented economies are bringing their traditional way of life to a standstill, affecting local industries such as hunting, and causing serious environmental and cultural destruction, the officials said.

The delegates also will study what kind of role Japan can play in helping ethnic minorities in the Russian Far East, a region that has long associations with Japan, and ways of cooperation between nongovernmental groups, the officials said.

The 14-member group will visit processing factories in Yamagata, Toyama and Nara Prefectures to learn about advanced technology in the processing field, they said.

The United Nations designates 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Tokyo To Help Mongolia's Economic Transition

OW3001075393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Japan will form an experts panel to study ways to help Mongolia work out necessary laws for the country's transition to a market economy, officials said Saturday.

The decision is in line with a pledge made to Mongolia by former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during his visit to Ulaanbaatar in 1991, the officials said.

The panel will be composed of officials from the Foreign and Justice Ministries and the cabinet legislative bureau, and academics.

It will hold its first meeting in the middle of February, they said.

Discussions at the meeting will center on Japan's cooperation for the enactment of economic laws such as those governing commercial transactions and tax collection, the officials said.

Tokyo 'Worried' Over Phnom Penh Offensive

OW0102144693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1427 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan expressed concern Monday over reports that the Phnom Penh government army appears to have launched an offensive against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told reporters that he is "somewhat worried" by reports that government troops are pressing toward the Khmer Rouge headquarters in Pailin, near the Thai border.

But he said he has been informed that the fighting is similar to other incidents that have taken place since United Nations peacekeeping forces arrived last March.

Eric Belman, spokesman for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), told a briefing in Phnom Penh that the fighting which erupted over the past 72 hours is the most serious so far.

Fighting has spread to five of the 11 military sectors, he reportedly said.

Both the Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge are party to the peace accord signed in 1991 after 13 years of civil war.

Military Tension 'Heightened'

OW0202043193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japan expressed concern Tuesday over heightened military tension in Cambodia in the wake of a Phnom Penh government offensive against Khmer Rouge guerrillas, and called on the two factions to restrain their forces.

"We urge all parties involved to exercise self-restraint, and hope conditions will be brought under control without delay," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told a daily news conference.

The government spokesman criticized the Phnom Penh government, saying its military action could not be justified as an act of self-defense.

Kono said he does not expect all-out war and predicted that the fighting would subside, but added that it is too early to comment on whether the latest military action would affect elections slated for May 23-25.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said "there is no change in the basic ceasefire," agreement, and that the fighting would not require Japan to pull out its forces from the UN peacekeeping operations.

UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) spokesman Eric Berman said Monday that the offensive was the largest since UN peacekeepers arrived last March, and affected 5 of 11 military sectors.

It appeared that the Phnom Penh government troops were headed toward the Khmer Rouge's Pailin headquarters on the Thai border, he said.

Japan's UN peacekeeping legislation passed last summer requires Tokyo to withdraw its personnel from UN operations in case of a breakdown of the ceasefire.

There was no fighting in the Kampot area where some 600 Self-Defense Forces personnel are engaged in road and bridge repair, Kono said.

He said the government has ascertained the safety of Japanese nationals.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, briefing Miyazawa and Kono earlier in the day, said that the military situation is serious, but that the Phnom Penh forces have not yet decided to launch an all-out offensive.

He said that judging from the volume of weapons held by the two sides, there is no indication the skirmishes will develop into a full-scale conflict.

But Watanabe said there is possibility of further violations of the ceasefire.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said both sides have said they still adhere to the Paris peace accord, signed in 1991 to end 13 years of civil war, Watanabe said.

Watanabe made the report after being briefed by Yukio Imagawa, Japan's ambassador in Phnom Penh, who had consulted with Akashi.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa later told foreign correspondents that the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia has been instructed to issue a statement to both the Phnom Penh authorities and the Khmer Rouge to refrain from military actions.

A Phnom Penh Government spokesman reportedly told a press conference Tuesday that the "purely defensive" military operation had been completed.

He was said to have proposed that U.N. Peacekeepers be deployed in a buffer zone between the government's army and the Khmer Rouge.

Phnom Penh Troops Pull Back

OW0202085793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Military tensions in Cambodia eased slightly Tuesday with the Phnom Penh Government pulling back its troops from the Khmer Rouge headquarters in Pailin, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's top spokesman said.

Quoting U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) reports, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Cambodian Government forces as of 2 PM Japan time had withdrawn to 40 kilometers from the Thai border town of Pailin from their 20 kilometer stakeout Monday.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi is slated to meet with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen Tuesday evening, Kono told a daily news briefing, quoting an UNTAC spokesman.

In a related development, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa conveyed Tokyo's call for the two clashing parties to restrain their militia to Long Visalo, Phnom Penh vice foreign minister, Kono said.

Japan also intends to deliver the message to the Khmer Rouge, Kono said.

He reiterated that Japan does not plan to interrupt peacekeeping activities by Japanese Self-Defense Force engineering corps over the new offensive, described by UNTAC as the largest since U.N. peacekeepers arrived last spring.

Earlier in the day, Kono called on the two rival factions to restrain their forces.

"We urge all parties involved to exercise self-restraint, and hope conditions will be brought under control without delay," he told reporters.

Kono criticized the Phnom Penh government, saying its military action could not be justified as an act of self-defense.

Prime Minister Miyazawa said, "there is no change in the basic ceasefire," agreement, and that the fighting would not require Japan to pull out its forces from the U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Japan's U.N. peacekeeping legislation passed last summer requires Tokyo to withdraw its personnel from U.N. operations in case of a breakdown of the ceasefire.

There was no fighting in the Kampot area where some 600 Self-Defense Forces personnel are engaged in road and bridge repair, Kono said.

He said the government has ascertained the safety of Japanese nationals.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, briefing Miyazawa and Kono, said that the military situation is serious, but that the Phnom Penh forces have not yet decided to launch an all-out offensive.

Watanabe said there is possibility of further violations of the ceasefire.

UNTAC chief Akashi said both sides have said they still adhere to the Paris peace accord, signed in 1991 to end 13 years of civil war, Watanabe said.

Watanabe made the report after being briefed by Imagawa, Japan's ambassador in Phnom Penh, who had consulted with Akashi.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents that the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia has been instructed to issue a statement to both the Phnom Penh authorities and the Khmer Rouge to refrain from military actions.

Introduction of Small Constituency System Urged

OW3101141593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 31 Jan 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Tsutomu Hata, leader of the Hata faction in the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], in a public speech in Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture, stressed again the need to introduce a simple and small constituency system for the House of Representatives.

In the speech, Hata said that the current medium-sized constituency system, in which several Dietmen are elected from one constituency, made the responsibilities of lawmakers vague. He also said that under the current election system the opposition parties would not be able to take power and that no sense of political tension existed. Such points were ultimately linked to the people's loss of trust in politics.

In this way, he stressed again the need to introduce a simple, small constituency system for the House of Representatives to create politics with a sense of tension.

Kono Refutes Mitsuzuka on Political Reform

OW0102141893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] In connection with Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Policy Research Council Chairman Mitsuzuka's suggestion yesterday [31 January] that if necessary, some LDP-proposed bills including fundamental political reform should be treated separately from other LDP-proposed bills to get them enacted, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono, speaking at a news conference this morning, indicated that the policy of not separating certain bills from others remains unchanged.

LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Mitsuzuka made the remarks on fundamental political reform at a news conference in Akita city yesterday. He said that the LDP should not shelve all LDP-proposed bills on the grounds that it will be difficult to come to an agreement with the opposition parties within a limited number of days. He then said that it is a matter of course that bills agreeable with the opposition parties should be adopted. In this way, he indicated his view that if the LDP and the opposition come to agreement on certain bills during consultations to be held during the final round of the current Diet session, these agreeable bills should be treated separately from other bills and adopted at the current Diet session.

Referring to his remarks, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said at the news conference this morning: Since the LDP-proposed bills including fundamental political reform specify how the Political Fund Control Law should be revised when the single-seat constituency system is introduced, the bills themselves were originally considered as one package. So far, I have not heard of any plans to separate certain bills from the LDP-proposed bills. In this way, he indicated his view that the LDP-proposed bills will be treated as one package and no one bill will be separated from the others.

The chief cabinet secretary went on to say: There are various opinions on the form of the LDP-proposed bills; some people say the LDP's political reform-related bills should be composed of three or four bills while others say that the bills should be made into one. As the bills will be finalized under the leadership of the LDP's Political Reform Headquarters, I want to see how this matter will turn out.

SDPJ Threatens To Boycott Diet Over Scandal

OW0102070893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan's [SDPJ] Diet Administration Committee, said during a news conference today that after the round of general interpellations is completed at the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, if the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] does not come up with concrete responses to such issues as the summoning of witnesses to the Sagawa Kyubin affair, the SDPJ will not participate in subsequent Diet deliberations.

The lower house's Budget Committee is scheduled to hear an explanation on the intent of the draft fiscal 1993 budget this afternoon, and a round of general interpellations by the various political parties is to follow on 28 and 29 January. The itinerary for Diet proceedings after that has not been decided upon.

In this connection, Murayama said during the news conference that the SDPJ has agreed to participate in Diet proceedings until the completion of the round of general interpellations by the various parties in the lower house Budget Committee starting on 28 January because the LDP had promised to deal with the investigation of the Sagawa affair, including the question of summoning witnesses, in good faith. However, after such interpellations are concluded, if the LDP does not come up with concrete measures to investigate the scandal, the SDPJ cannot participate in subsequent deliberations.

Opposition Agrees on Special Panel on Scandal

OW3101075193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Leaders of four opposition parties agreed Sunday to set up a special Diet committee to investigate the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

Social Democratic Party Chairman Sadao Yamahaha, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, Japanese Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa and Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Keigo Ouchi reached the accord during a talk show on TV Asahi.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party so far has been reluctant to set up such a panel in the Diet.

The opposition camp has demanded the summoning of six persons allegedlly involved in the scandal, including former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to testify as sworn witnesses before the Diet. Takeshita has testified twice under oath in the Diet and denied allegations that he was involved in the scandal.

Speedy Summoning of Sagawa Witnesses Rejected

OW0102040493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The directors of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties met Monday morning in an effort to break an impasse over the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Parliamentary sources said, however, that the Diet is almost certain to be at a standstill Monday, as the ruling party rejected opposition demands for a speedy summoning of six key witnesses in the money-and-gangster scandal.

The LDP wants to put off the summoning of the witnesses as it fears the process will delay the passage of the fiscal 1993 state budget, the sources said.

The LDP hopes the budget bill will pass the Diet by early March.

The opposition parties said the parliamentary testimonies of all of the six witnesses are crucial to elucidate the flow of shadowy funds from the express parcel delivery firm to politicians.

The six witnesses are former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita; LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa; Masahisa Haibara, ex-secretary of former LDP Deputy President Shin Kanemaru; Kiyoshi Sagawa, president of the Sagawa Kyubin trucking group; Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Co.; and Yasuo Matsuzawa, president of the defunct Heiwado group of companies.

LDP, Opposition Fail To Break 'Impasse'

OW0102105693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may agree to summon witnesses to the Diet to testify under oath on the money-and-mob Sagawa Kyubin Scandal next week, LDP sources said Monday.

The Diet Affairs Committee sources did not clarify how many witnesses the LDP will allow to testify under oath in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Opposition parties have demanded summonses for former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru, former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, Kiyoshi Sagawa, president of Sagawa Kyubin Group, Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Co. and Masahisa Haibara, Kanemaru's former secretary.

Diet business, meanwhile, Monday reached a standstill with the LDP and opposition parties failing to break the impasse despite three rounds of directors' meetings of the lower house budget committee, party officials said.

The LDP demands that the opposition come up with a clear-cut timetable for earlier deliberations of the fiscal 1993 budget bill beginning this April, the officials said.

The LDP urged the opposition to cooperate in getting the budget bill through the Diet. The bill is designed to boost Japan's sluggish economy, the officials said.

For the opposition's part, the parties dropped Yasuo Matsuzawa, president of the Heiwado group of companies, from an earlier list of seven witnesses in the Diet's testimony under oath, the officials said.

The Justice Ministry said in a report to the Diet that Matsuzawa paid 1.75 billion yen in kickbacks to Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

His group allegedly obtained huge funds in loans and loan guarantees from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.

Watanabe allegedly funneled 500 million yen out of the 1.75 billion yen to Kanemaru, a former LDP vice president who was forced to quit the Diet last year after acknowledging receiving the money.

The LDP asked the opposition for time for consultations among its executives on what compromise proposals it can show over the witness issue, they said.

Iwao Teramae, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Diet Affairs Committee, told reporters the party places priority on seeking a summons for Ozawa.

He said Ozawa was an important figure in the scandal in silencing the Kominto rightist group in 1987. The group waged a smear campaign against Takeshita, who was vying for leadership of the LDP. The position automatically made him prime minister in October 1987.

LDP To Call Politicians To Break Stalemate

OW0202052593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) plans to call two politicians allegedly linked to the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal to give evidence in the Diet in an effort to break a stalemate in the legislature, party sources said Tuesday.

It hopes that summoning former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and ex-Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will persuade the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], which strongly advocates a thorough probe into the scandal, to resume deliberations on the fiscal 1993 budget, the sources said.

House of Representatives Budget Committee directors from the ruling and opposition parties held inconclusive talks Tuesday morning on an opposition demand for six figures to appear before the Diet to testify on the scandal, Diet sources said.

The LDP reiterated that it will set aside three days in mid-February for the lower house panel to hear testimony, but the SDP had insisted that it specify who will be called, the sources said.

In light of calls for early Diet passage of the budget for fiscal 1993, starting April 1, to stimulate the economy, two centrist opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—have tried to persuade the SDP to agree to resume debate on the budget, sources in the two parties said.

The panel directors will meet again Tuesday afternoon to further discuss the issue, Diet sources said.

Plan Surfaces for Ozawa To Testify to Diet

OW0202120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A powerful politician of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will likely testify under oath in the Diet February 17 on his alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal, Diet sources said Tuesday.

The plan to have former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa testify in the Diet surfaced after the LDP negotiated with the opposition camp to break an impasse in the legislature, LDP sources said.

The LDP and the opposition formally agreed to conduct testimony of key figures allegedly involved in the political scandal before the House of Representatives Budget Committee from February 17 to 19, the Diet sources said.

The LDP agreed to reply to an opposition demand by next Tuesday to summon six persons, including Ozawa and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, to the Diet as sworn witnesses in connection with the scandal.

As a result, the lower house panel will resume deliberations of the fiscal 1993 budget at 10 AM Wednesday, the sources said.

The governing conservative party has agreed to summon Takeshita to the Diet. It has yet to be decided when and how Takeshita will be called to the Diet to give testimony, they said.

In his two Diet testimonies last year, Takeshita denied allegations that he gained the assistance of a gangland boss to squash a right-wing group's smear campaign against him in 1987, when he was vying for the LDP presidency.

The top ruling party post automatically carries with it prime ministership due to the LDP's dominance in the Diet since 1955.

A one-time close ally of Takeshita, Ozawa is said to know the truth of the former prime minister's alleged involvement in the scandal.

Another possible candidate mentioned for Diet testimony was Masahisa Haibara, a former secretary of ex-LDP kingmaker Shin Kanemaru, the Diet sources said.

Besides Ozawa, Takeshita, and Haibara, the opposition camp also seeks testimony from Kanemaru, Kiyoshi Sagawa, founder and former chairman of the Sagawa Kyubin Co. trucking firm, and Rekiji Kobari, chairman of the Fukushima Kotsu Co. bus firm.

The LDP is increasingly dominated by a sentiment that the tentative settlement of the issue over the Diet testimony will make way for passage of a government budget bill before the start of fiscal 1993 on April 1, LDP sources said.

At Tuesday's meetings of lower house Budget Committee directors from ruling and opposition parties, the LDP reiterated that it will set aside three days in mid-February for the lower house panel to hear testimony, but the leading opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP) had insisted that it specify who will be summoned, Diet sources said.

The SDP softened its stance, however, as the LDP expressed willingness to summon Ozawa and Takeshita for testimony in the Diet. Two centrist opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—persuaded the SDP to agree to resume debate on the budget in view of calls for its early Diet passage to boost Japan's sluggish economy, they said.

LDP Candidates Win in Kitakyushu Polls

OW3101232293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2303 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Pref., Feb. 1 KYODO—All 15 candidates backed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party won Sunday in the 64-seat Kitakyushu Municipal Assembly election, election officials said.

The Kitakyushu local election became the focus of public attention prior to a general election expected to be held within the year in the wake of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal.

During the election campaign, Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], and Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito, the second-biggest opposition party, visited this northern Kyushu city to beef up the campaign.

The SDP which had 10 seats before the election, lost one seat in Sunday's election. The Komeito secured nine seats and lost one.

The Democratic Socialist Party and the Japanese Communist Party maintained a status quo by winning eight seats and nine seats respectively.

Voters' turnout in Sunday's local election was a record low 55.1 percent, the officials said.

Sato Opposed to Cut in Official Discount Rate

OW3001081193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—A top official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) expressed opposition Saturday to a cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

Koko Sato, chairman of the LDP's Executive Council, said an immediate cut in the key lending rate by the central bank would not have a major effect in stimulating the sluggish economy.

Sato was commenting on reports that a reduction in the rate is imminent.

BOJ sources told KYODO News Service Friday the bank will lower the rate, which it charges on its loans to commercial banks, by 0.75 percentage point to 2.50 percent per annum in a week.

The central bank last cut the rate by 0.5 percentage point to 3.25 percent on July 27, 1992, in a series of credit easing which started in July 1991.

"I don't think a rate reduction will help stimulate the economy because it only benefits financial and nonbanking institutions and not the people," Sato told an LDP-organized party in Chiba.

He also discounted the economic effect of an income tax cut, saying most of the extra income would be transferred to savings accounts.

The government should demonstrate its resolution to get the Fiscal 1993 budget through the Diet by the end of March because such a resolute approach will cause a psychological impact on the economic recovery, he said.

Hayami Urges Early Cut in Discount Rate

OW0202084093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A business leader urged the Bank of Japan (BOJ) Tuesday to reduce its discount rate as early as possible.

"The earlier it comes, the greater impact it would have," said Masaru Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, better known as "Keizai Doyukai."

The central bank has cut the discount rate five times over the last year and a half. It last cut the rate on July 27 last year, bringing it down to 3.25 percent per annum.

The discount rate is a fee the central bank charges on its loans to commercial banks.

Hayami told a press conference it does not stand to reason to think the sixth discount rate reduction should be the final cut, adding that real interest rates and money supply must be taken into account in deciding on a change in the discount rate.

Hayami's comments came amid lingering speculation that the BOJ may lower the discount rate in the near future, possibly by as much as 0.75 percentage point to a postwar low of 2.50 percent.

BOJ Official on Effects of Past Rate Cuts

OW0202122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A senior Bank of Japan (BOJ) official said Tuesday the central bank expects the effects of past credit easing will begin to show in industries affected by a public works spending package passed last year, government officials said.

Yutaka Yamaguchi, head of the BOJ's policy planning department, told the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's finance division that inventory adjustments are proceeding at material manufacturers and the five past official discount rate cuts should begin to take effect when corporate funds demand begins recuperating, the officials said.

The government announced last August that 10.7 trillion yen worth of pump-priming measures would be put into effect focusing on additional public works investments to stimulate the sluggish economy.

Yamaguchi also referred to the alleged divulgence of the BOJ's confidential documents regarding Mitsubishi Bank's financial strategy, saying the BOJ is currently investigating whether the documents circulated among multiple financial institutions are genuine, the officials said.

He said he will report its findings to the Finance Ministry.

Meanwhile, a senior Finance Ministry official, speaking at the same meeting, indicated a possible scheme to inject tax payers' money into a bailout package for financially troubled housing loan corporations.

"The ministry may take some measures in the case of unexpected situations in the process of their restructuring," said Makoto Fukuda, chief of the banking bureaus coordination division.

Hiraiwa Seeks Additional Economic Package

OW0102052293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0502 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The head of Japan's top business organization urged the government Monday to work on more measures to shore up the economy, an official of the group said.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the additional measures are needed because there are no "bright" signs of economic recovery, the official said.

Depending on business activities in the January-February period, the government should "try every possible means" to get the economy moving, the official quoted Hiraiwa as telling the head of the Economic Planning Agency, Hajime Funada.

Funada replied that he is ready to listen to suggestions, but the time is not right for an additional pump-priming package, the official said.

Keidanren officials also told Funada that a poll conducted by the organization in January showed most companies are calling for cuts in income tax and the official discount rate.

Tax Commision Head 'Negative' About Tax Cut

OW0102105793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Hiroshi Kato, head of the government's tax commission, indicated Monday he is negative toward growing calls for tax cuts funded by national bond issues.

Kato, a professor at Keio University in Tokyo, told KYODO News Service a one-year tax cut will not have a significant impact on economic recovery.

"Who will take responsibility for a widening budget deficit to be caused by a national bond issue to raise funds for tax cuts?" he asked.

Kato said the Tax Commission, an advisory organ to the prime minister, plans to come up with a proposal for a sweeping revision of the existing taxation system around 1995.

The proposal will include a readjustment of the direct and indirect tax ratio and a proportional rise in tax rates, he said.

Ruling and opposition parties should refrain from calling for an income tax cut as a means to stimulate the domestic economy unless they are ready to pass a resolution through the Diet calling for a hike of the 3 percent consumption tax to make up for a budget deficit cause by national bond issues, he said.

"We will oppose to the end any tax cut plan as part of economic stimulus measures. We will continue to appeal against national bond issues," he said.

Kato said the Tax Commission will form an expert panel to discuss medium-term plans for revamping the tax system soon after the 1993 fiscal budget is approved.

Kato said the new group will concentrate on balanced taxation of income, consumption and assets.

The commission will study the possibility of raising the consumption tax but a decision should be endorsed by public support, he said.

Kato said a hike of the consumption tax should follow cuts in spending by government agencies.

Ministry Official Doubts Economy Has Worsened

OW0102100793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—A top Ministry of Finance (MOF) official Monday questioned if Japan's economic climate is more severe than last fall, saying he sees some improvement in business conditions because of boosted public works spending under the official pump-priming package.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said business conditions seem to be improving in sectors like the steel industry. He did, however, acknowledge that conditions are still austere for nonmaterial manufacturers, like automakers.

According to data released Monday, domestic auto sales dropped 12.0 percent year-on-year in December.

As to debate about a possible reduction of the official discount rate, now standing at 3.25 percent, the official said authorities are continuing to monitor the effects of past cuts.

He would not comment on how long the monitoring will continue but said authorities are scrutinizing current economic conditions. The official said their policy "is not shrouded in mist."

The official said he has not heard about a possible meeting soon by finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations. Tokyo is this year's host to the annual G-7 summit.

Hayashi Studying Factors Regarding Rate Cuts

OW0202024693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0144 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Tuesday that he is studying various factors regarding the official discount rate, but gave no indication about a possible cut.

Speculation continued to mount in financial markets that the Bank of Japan is planning a cut of 0.50 to 0.75 percentage point in the rate, which it charges on loans to commercial banks. The bank may cut the rate in order to encourage consumer and corporate capital spending.

Hayashi told reporters after the morning cabinet meeting that he "is studying various things," but so far there is no change in his stance to closely watch diverse circumstances.

The key lending rate charged by the central bank to commercial banks is currently standing at 3.25 percent per annum.

Refering to labor statistics released Tuesday morning, Hayashi said conditions overall are "depressing except in the construction sector."

According to the Management and Coordination Agency, Japan's unemployment rate in December rose 0.1 point from the month before to 2.4 percent, the highest figure since May 1989, while the Labor Ministry reported that the ratio of job offers to job seekers stood at 0.93 in December.

Meanwhile, he said a bailout plan for debt-ridden Nippon Housing Loan Co. has not yet been agreed upon by creditor banks and that the ministry hopes for a prompt solution.

Reports have said that nine creditor banks are willing to write off interest on loans extended to Nippon Housing, but some agricultural credit unions were cautious about joining the party.

EPA Survey Reveals Drop in FY '92 Spending

OW0202065693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japanese companies plan to reduce their capital investment for fiscal 1992 ending March 31 by 4.1 percent from the previous fiscal year, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said Tuesday in its quarterly survey.

The poll conducted December 1 among 4,354 firms capitalized at 100 million yen or more showed a downward revision from a 3.8 percent cut they had projected for fiscal 1992 in the previous survey three months earlier.

The updated spending plan worth 49.5 trillion yen, if carried out unchanged, will mark the first year-on-year decline since fiscal 1981, when the agency started the survey under the quarterly revision method.

The survey also reinforced the possibility that private capital investment would turn worse than the real 3.7 percent decline in the latest revised projections by the government for fiscal 1992.

Manufacturers plan a 11.8 percent cut in their spending on plant and equipment, while nonmanufacturers will raise outlays by 1.0 percent.

An agency official said the polled companies remain cautious about the economic outlook, with inventory and output capacity still seen too high and domestic demand staying weak.

The latest survey showed that economic recovery is seen being "delayed by a quarter from the previous September survey," the official said.

But the companies are pinning hopes on a gradual recovery in the next two quarters although uncertainties remain whether their business sentiment hit a bottom in the October-December quarter.

In the October-December quarter, overall corporate investments in facilities and equipment was estimated to have dropped 4.3 percent from the previous quarter.

For the January-March quarter, the survey forecast a fall of 0.4 percent, followed by a 7.4 percent decline in the April-June quarter.

The sharp projected fall in the April-June quarter is because most companies answered they have not yet decided their investment plans, so the agency used the lowest respective figures of the past three quarters for them.

The business sentiment index released the same day also underscored the cautious stance, and portended a delay of one quarter in economic recovery.

The index—compiled by subtracting the percentage of businesses with a positive outlook from those with a negative forecast—stood at minus 32 in the October-December quarter, revised from minus 33 in the previous survey.

The index stood at minus 24 for the January-March quarter, down from plus 6, but came to plus 6 for the April-June quarter.

Mori Urges 'Bold' Monetary Step for Economy

OW0202024893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Minister of International Trade and Industry Yoshiro Mori on Tuesday urged the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to ease credit further, calling for "bold" action by the central bank to bolster the economy.

"The official discount rate is a matter to be exclusively determined by the BOJ. But on the other hand, the 3.3 percent goal of economic growth must be attained," Mori told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting. The 3.3 percent target was set by the government for fiscal 1993, beginning April 1.

"I expect a bold financial policy by the bank," he said.

Speculation is rampant that the central bank will, possibly this week, lower its benchmark rate, charged on loans to commercial banks, by 0.5 percentage point or 0.75 point from the current 3.25 percent per annum.

Mori also proposed broadening the scope of public works projects financed by construction bonds issued by the government.

Projects for computer and other information-industry-related infrastructure, medical equipment, and others should be included in public works, he said.

"For instance, civil engineering projects are covered by public works, while construction ones are not. The scope of projects qualified for public funds should be expanded," he said.

Vehicle Sales Said To Fall

OW0102053993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Domestic sales of cars, trucks, and buses fell 12.0 percent in January from a year earlier to 278,640 vehicles, the seventh monthly decline in a row, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said Monday.

Sales fell in all categories for the fourth straight month while those of passenger cars fell below year-earlier levels for the sixth month in a row, the association said.

Sales of passenger cars dipped 10.5 percent to 191,376 vehicles, continuing a downward trend marked by weak demand for cars with an engine capacity of 2000 cc [cubic centimeters] or larger.

Such sales slid 13.8 percent to 42,935 vehicles, while those of cars with smaller engines slipped 9.5 percent to 148,441 vehicles.

Sales of trucks totaled 86,480, down 15.0 percent, and buses totaled 784, down 31.0 percent.

Sales by Toyota Motor Corp. fell 9.5 percent to 122,119 vehicles, while Nissan Motor Co. reported a 14.1 percent decline to 61,257 vehicles.

Sales by Mazda Motor Corp. dropped 20.2 percent to 23,052 vehicles, while those by Honda Motor Co. fell 15.2 percent to 15,983 vehicles.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. sold 26,485 vehicles, down 4.1 percent, while Isuzu Motors Ltd. saw a 23.3 percent dip to 8,689 vehicles.

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., maker of Subaru cars, was the only gainer in the month, with sales up 12.3 percent to 4,269 vehicles.

Sales of imported vehicles fell 6.3 percent to 9,088 vehicles.

Bankruptcy Ruling Sought for Dietman Higashi

OW3001111393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Wakayama, Jan. 30 KYODO—A financial institution has gone to court to have Vice Construction Minister Chikara Higashi declared bankrupt, informed sources said Saturday.

Mihiro Finance, a Tokyo-based nonbank that is part of the Chisan group, petitioned the Wakayama district court in an apparent bid to collect hundreds of millions of yen it loaned to an acquaintance of the lawmaker three years ago, the sources said.

Higashi acted as a joint guarantor of the 20-year, 550 million yen loan in April 1990 to a woman who ran a jewelry shop. She vanished in October the following year.

In December, he filed a suit seeking confirmation that he is not indebted to the financial institution after Mihiro Finance tried to recover the loan by putting a block on Higashi's 1.2 million yen monthly salary and his household goods in five locations, including his home in Shingu, southeastern Wakayama Prefecture.

As of September 1991 the jeweler had not paid any installments on the loan and the following month she vanished, according to Higashi's court statement.

Mihiro Finance sought repayment of the loan totaling about 540 million yen from Higashi but the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker paid 20 million yen and refused to shoulder the rest, he said.

The company, with the approval of the Wakayama district court, moved last April to seize his salary and properties.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Production of Daily Necessities

SK3001074593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 29 Jan 93

[NODONG SINMUN 29 January editorial: "Let Us Produce and Supply Raw Materials and Other Materials for Light Industry Plants in a Timely Manner"]

[Text] Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's new year address, the functionaries and working people in light industry fields are unanimously rising up to struggle to drastically increase the production of people's daily necessities.

To bring about a great upsurge in production of people's daily necessities, domains and units concerned should responsibly produce and provide raw materials and other materials for light industry plants in a timely manner.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: We should properly provide light industry plants with synthetic fibers, synthetic resins, chemicals, steelwork of various kinds, second-stage metal-processing goods, nonferrous processing goods, raw materials, and other materials needed for producing daily necessities.

Production of people's daily necessities in light industry fields greatly depends upon how various fields of the national economy—the machine, chemical, metal, agricultural, and fishery industries—produce and provide raw materials and other materials for light industry plants.

The chemical industry should provide light industry plants with chemical fibers for clothes production. The metal production and forestry domain should provide light industry plants with steel materials and wood for iron and wood production. The fields of agriculture and fishing should provide light industry plants with raw materials for food production.

This year is a significant year marking the 40th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War. To further improve material and cultural living standards by drastically increasing production of people's daily necessities, we should normalize production at a high level by fully operating light industry plants. We should properly carry out the work of providing materials for light industry plants for this.

The revolutionary enthusiasm and morale of the functionaries and working people in light industry fields are very high. If domains and units concerned smoothly produce and provide materials for light industry plants, plants and enterprises in light industry fields—including textile industry, food processing industry, shoe industry, and daily necessities industry—can normalize production at a high level. As a result, many people's daily necessities of good quality can be displayed at shops in this significant year.

Therefore, we can further bring into full play the superiority of the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses. Our party has raised the magnificent plan of getting everyone to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothing, and live in tile-roofed house as an important target to construct socialism. The magnificent plan can be realized more rapidly.

To smoothly produce and provide raw materials and other materials needed for light industry plants, domains and units concerned should, above all, acquire right position and view of our party's light-industry-first policy. They should thoroughly carry out the policy.

The light-industry-is-the-first policy means that resolving the issue of people's daily necessities is most important and that efforts should be put into light industry fields. The issue of carrying out the light-industry-is-the-first policy is an important task assigned to the functionaries and working people of all fields in the national economy as well as to the functionaries in light industry fields.

All domains and units of the national economy should keep in mind that only when they thoroughly carry out the light-industry-is-the-first policy, can the production of people's daily necessities be drastically increased. Only then can the revolution of light industry be successfully carried out. They should constantly produce and provide raw materials and other materials of all kinds for light industry plants.

Chemical industry fields hold a very important position in producing and providing raw materials and other materials needed for light industry. Only when the chemical industry produces and provides light industry plants with chemical fibers, synthetic resins, dyestuffs, paints, other chemicals, can the issue of increasing the variety of necessities be resolved. Only then can the people's growing demand for quality be smoothly met.

Normalizing production in textile industry, food processing industry, shoe industry, and daily necessities industry entirely depends upon how chemical industry fields produce and provide light industry plants with raw materials and other materials. Chemical industry fields should put great efforts into fertilizer production. They should also put efforts into producing vinalon, staple fiber, rayon yarn, orlon, and other chemical fibers.

We should develop the synthetic resin industry to produce synthetic resins of various kinds, including vinyl chloride. We should drastically increase the production of such chemical as caustic soda, sodium carbonate, and hydrochloric acid. We should also increase production of dyestuffs, paint stuffs, and salt.

For the present, the chemical industrial sector should properly repair facilities and regularly check them. It should also normalize production at higher level by strictly observing technical regulations and meeting the standard of their operation's regulation.

The metal industry is faced with the heavy task of solving the problems of supplying the materials needed for light industrial field. To increase the production of daily necessaries made of iron—such as sewing machines, bicycles, and washing machines needed by many people—this sector should more properly meet various standards and produce quality steel products. It should also more satisfactorily produce nonferrous metal processing goods.

By operating the iron and steel works at full capacity, the metal industry sector should increase the production of quality steel products and by meeting various standards, including cold-rolled sheets and white iron plates. It should also increase the production of nonferrous metal processing goods, such as the secondary metal processing manufacture, aluminum, and copper manufactures. They should thus supply the light industrial plants in a timely and responsible manners.

Agricultural and fisheries sectors should provide the light industrial plants with animal and plant raw materials. The forestry sector should ensure the timely supply of lumber.

Functionaries and working people in the coal industry should cherish deep in their hearts the slogan that a great upsurge for production can be effected in other sectors, including the light industrial sector, only when an upsurge is effected first in the coal industrial sector. They should more vigorously conduct a struggle to increase coal production. They should immediately provide the light industrial plants with coal they produce.

The power industry sector should strive to increase the production of electricity, the basic energy source for production. It should sufficiently supply light industrial plants with electricity.

The trade sector and other sectors should properly organize the work of solving the problem of the supply of light industry's raw material that is either not produced, or produced slightly in our country. Therefore, they should be not so detrimental to the production of the people's consumer goods.

Transportation is the pilot of the national economy and is an important link connecting production with consumption. The transportation sector should economically organize the mean for railway, ship, and automobile transportation. Thus, it should transport fuel, raw materials, and other materials to the light industrial plants in a timely manner. It should also properly carry out the work of transporting the goods produced at the light industrial plants to consumer areas.

The State Administration Council and State Planning Committee should more properly organize the economic organizational work to implement the party's revolutionary policy for the light industry. For the present, the State Administration Council should correctly forge plans for light industry's revolutionary struggle. All committees and ministries should guide and control all sectors to immediately solve the problems of supplying raw and other materials to the light industry.

The work to effect innovation in the light industry is a rewarding work to create a more abundant and civilized life for the people.

Party organizations and functionaries at all sectors of the national economy continue to fully explain to party members and the working people the significance and importance of the settlement of the problem of supplying materials needed by the light industry. Thus, they should highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and the mass-centered heroism with their spirit of struggle and vigor they showed in the difficult days of the war disaster. By so doing, they should effect upsurges in the production of raw materials and other materials needed in the light industry. As a result, they should see to it that a new upswing can be effected in the production of consumer goods.

CPRF Details U.S. Nuclear Weapons in South

SK3101145093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Statement by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, CPRF, read by Ho Hyon-pil, deputy director of the CPRF Secretariat, at a news conference in Pyongyang on 28 January—recorded]

[Text] The United States officially announced the introduction of nuclear weapons into units of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea 35 years ago. The United States has introduced about 1,000 different types of nuclear weapons into South Korea over the past 35 years, turning it into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East. This was the beginning of its Asia-Pacific strategy to make South Korea a base of nuclear attack.

In June 1957 the U.S. imperialists conspired with the South Korean authorities to deploy nuclear weapons in South Korea. On 15 July 1957 they officially announced the undertaking of the U.S. occupation forces' nuclear armament. Finally, on 29 January 1958 they released an official announcement that they had introduced nuclear weapons in South Korea.

A few days later, on 3 February 1958, the 1st Army Headquarters of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea showed an atomic gun and the Honest John nuclear weapon to the public, and on 1 May they test-fired an atomic gun.

The United States brought the 588th Tactical Missile Battalion of the U.S. Air Force into South Korea and established the 4th Missile Headquarters of the U.S. Army at the end of the 1950's. It reorganized and modernized the atomic division and introduced various atomic weapons and guided missiles, including the Nike Hercules, Matador, and Hawk in the 1960's. In the 1970's it deployed nuclear delivery planes; 8-inch nuclear shells; various nuclear warheads, including the Sergeant and Lance missiles, and nuclear delivery systems, such as nuclear-capable fighter-bombers.

In the 1980's the United States delivered 155-mm nuclear shells, nuclear bombs, and nuclear mines to its occupation forces in South Korea. These had never been supplied to its overseas military bases before. It also introduced Stinger missiles; remodeled Hawk missiles; nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers; neutron bombs, known as the devil's weapon of the 20th century; and Pershing 2 medium-range nuclear missiles.

Therefore, all kinds and types of U.S. nuclear weapons, from first generation nuclear weapons to third generation nuclear weapons have been introduced and deployed in South Korea, with a total explosive power of 13,000 kilotons—more than 1,000 times the power of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

While systematically shipping nuclear weapons into South Korea, the United States built or enlarged nuclear depots here and there and deployed nuclear-capable fighter-bombers ready for action. It also brought in a unit to be in charge of the storage of and equipment for nuclear warheads. By doing so, it was fully prepared to launch a nuclear war at any time.

The United States' introduction of nuclear weapons into South Korea was not made for [words indistinct], but aimed at starting an actual nuclear war on the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, voices opposing (?the introduction) of nuclear weapons naturally grew louder as days went by.

When denunciations at home and abroad of the United States' acceleration of preparations for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula grew louder, the South Korean authority suddenly made a declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons on 8 November 1991, following an American script. On 2 July 1992 former U.S. President Bush acted in his own drama, declaring that all tactical nuclear weapons had been completely withdrawn from Asia.

This was a brazen deception intended to mislead international opinion, which expressed concern about the conversion of South Korea into the largest nuclear advance base in the Far East, and it made a mockery of and insulted the antinuclear peace movement, which is growing with each passing day.

It is a stark reality proven by objective material and testimony that U.S. nuclear weapons still remain intact in South Korea. This is an open secret, and the United States and the South Korean authorities cannot deny it.

Many U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear storage houses really exist in South Korea today. Military units managing nuclear tactical units, nuclear weapons, and nuclear facilities have not been dismantled but still remain intact. Is it not true that if there are no nuclear weapons, nuclear facilities and nuclear storage houses should be destroyed and military units managing nuclear weapons and nuclear bombs should be dismantled or withdrawn without fail? However, the fact that these exist proves that nuclear weapons still remain.

The South Korean authorities' rejection of our proposal for an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea and the absurd declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authority who did not even know how many U.S. nuclear weapons were in South Korea prove that the declaration of nuclear withdrawal is false.

Moreover, after the so-called declaration on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, an employee of a construction company that built top secret storage spaces for nuclear weapons of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea personally revealed this fact to the public. Also, officials employed at the Chinhae nuclear submarine base revealed that U.S. nuclear submarines were still calling at Chinhae. This is convincing proof that U.S. nuclear weapons really exist in South Korea.

Fighter bombers used to transport nuclear weapons and nuclear guided missiles aimed at Korea from U.S. bases in Guam and Okinawa, Japan, are always on stand-by status. Anyone can figure out that because these mobile means have been modernized, the United States can launch a nuclear strike against us at any time.

The United States is actually planning to stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise again this year and bring nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, nuclear-attack military equipments, and special strike units carrying large numbers of nuclear backpacks to South Korea and to hold nuclear attack and nuclear bomb dropping exercises.

The declaration by former President Bush on withdrawing nuclear weapons and a declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authority are truly indeed only absurd lies. This unvarying policy of the U.S. imperialists to convert South Korea into their nuclear base is an open threat to our republic, a nonnuclear state.

On 7 April 1959, right after the United States brought in nuclear weapons to South Korea, our republic's government put forth a proposal to establish a nuclear-free peace-zone in Asia. It has also consistently called for a nuclear-free zone in the Northeast Asian region and for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone.

Primarily because of our initiative and active efforts, a North-South joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was adopted and put into effect, and an agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] was adopted.

The operation of the North-South JNCC failed, and the joint declaration on denuclearization is not being implemented. This is entirely because the U.S. nuclear strategy remains unchanged; U.S. nuclear weapons actually exist in South Korea; and the South Korean authorities are following the U.S. nuclear strategy, having lost independence.

Reducing and then eliminating nuclear weapons on this earth and making a peaceful world where there are no nuclear weapons and nuclear war are long-cherished desires of mankind. Also, withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula and establishing a nuclear-free peace zone are urgent demands related to our nation's life and death.

The United States must throw away its old way of thinking, a legacy of the Cold War era in which it threatened and blackmailed our nonnuclear republic with nuclear weapons, and openly withdraw its nuclear weapons, which it dragged into South Korea, with the eyes of the world on it.

For the present, it must immediately abandon its plan to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercises, a nuclear war exercise, in South Korea.

Our people are not the kind to do wrong or not carry out work that has to be done because someone issues a military threat. Disputed issues are being resolved peacefully on all continents of the world today; arms reduction, nuclear reduction, and abolition of nuclear weapons are progressing. In step with this the United States must reduce arms on the Korean peninsula, abolish nuclear weapons, and take measures necessary in detente so that it can contribute to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The South Korean authorities must not aggravate confrontation and tension between the North and the South, or follow the nuclear strategy of the United States, bereft of independence, but take measures to get the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea immediately.

Most of all, to realize as soon as possible the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula which was already agreed upon and for which promises to implement it were give before the nation, the South Korean authorities should accept our fair and just proposal for overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea. They should not commit acts that create artificial barriers in the North-South JNCC operations and should stop secretly developing nuclear weapons in South Korea.

From the position of national independence, we urge the South Korean authorities t renounce the U.S. nuclear war policy in accordance with our nation's interests. We hold that the countries responsible for the Korean issue must never remove the withdrawal of nuclear weapons and U.S. Forces from South Korea from the worldwide debate on the reduction of nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

We hope that the governments, political parties, and organizations of all countries, international organizations, and the peace-loving people of the world extend active support and encouragement to the sincere efforts of our people to have the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

[Dated] 28 January 1993, Pyongyang

Envoy to Russia Links Team Spirit, Nuclear Issues

SK0202041093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2215 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Our country's embassy in Russia held a news conference on 29 January in connection with the announcement of our foreign ministry's statement and the statement of our delegation to North-South high-level talks denouncing maneuvers of the United States and South Korean authorities to resume the criminal Team Spirit joint military exercise.

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was respectfully placed in front of the hall where the news conference was being held.

Present at the news conference were reporters of newspapers, news agencies and broadcasting networks of Russia.

Ambassador Son Song-pil made a speech at the conference.

The ambassador, first informed them of the contents of our foreign ministry statement of 27 January and of the 29 January statement of our side's delegation to North-South high-level talks.

He said that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets on 26 January officially announced that they decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a criminal nuclear war exercise. He noted: Defying the strong demand of our people and world people, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities officially decided to resume this Team Spirit exercise. This evokes great indignation and concern from social circles of the world.

The U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, the South Korean puppet army, and U.S. forces on the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific, as well as various nuclear equipment, will be mobilized in the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise which will be held with South Korea as a nuclear forward base. This exercise is a large-scale nuclear war exercise against our republic.

In view of today's international situation and the prevailing situation in our country, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have no excuse and justification to again stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The cold war was brought to an end in the international arena; the world is advancing toward reconciliation and detente; the North-South agreement was adopted and effectuated, and the Nuclear Safeguards Accord concluded between our country and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is being satisfactorily implemented. In the historic North-South agreement, the South Korean authorities pledged nonaggression with us, and vowed before fellow countrymen that they would achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the nation with the strength of the nation's driving forces. This being the case, the South Korean authorities have no reason to wage a game of playing with fire against fellow countrymen in collaboration with outside forces.

As for the Team Spirit joint military exercise, this exercise was suspended before the North-South agreement was effected. Therefore, staging it at present when the North-South agreement is in force in a stage of concrete implementation cannot be justified by anything.

The South Korean authorities have no justification for staging the Team Spirit joint military exercise together with the United States. They are well aware that if they resume this exercise, they will rupture all North-South dialogue. This notwithstanding, they are going to stage it obstinately. This illustrates that the South Korean authorities, in actuality, do not want dialogue and peaceful reunification with us but are merely pursuing confrontation, aggravation of tension, and a northward war of aggression.

The purpose pursued by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities in the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise is to work out an excuse for permanent U.S. military occupation of South Korea, to refuse overall inspections of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea, and to conceal South Korea's development of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, they are trying to threaten our people with a large-scale war exercise and to erase the socialist system in our country.

The resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise will strain the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme point and will lead it to the brink of war, thus creating a new danger to peace in Northeast Asia.

When the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities officially announced the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, they presented so-called suspicions about development of nuclear weapons as one of the reasons for staging the exercise. This is indeed unreasonable and preposterous.

As has been known, the United States and the South Korean authorities suspended the Team Spirit joint military exercise last year before the IAEA's non-regular inspection of our country began.

Yet today when IAEA's nuclear inspection of our country is being carried out in such a normal manner and the peaceful purpose of the nuclear programs of our Republic has been verified, they decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise on the pretext of nuclear weapons development suspicion. This cannot be justified with anything.

The Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise against our Republic is a criminal act going against even the basic demand of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which bans the threatening of non-nuclear nations by nuclear powers with nuclear weapons.

The obligations stipulated in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty should be observed not only by our Republic but also by the United States and the South Korean authorities. Yet they are threatening us with nuclear weapons, when we are sincerely fulfilling these obligations, and they are flagrantly violating obligations. This obstructs us from fulfilling the obligations stipulated in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise is a provocative act to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and to gravely threaten peace and security in Asia and the world.

By staging the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the United States and the South Korean authorities suspended implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration. They ruptured talks such as the North-South high-level talks which were held on many channels. They cannot avoid the responsibility for keeping us from fulfilling obligations of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The attempt of the United States and the South Korean authorities to frighten our people and to bring us to our knees with military threat and by means of force is a serious miscalculation.

Our people are strong people who regard independence and dignity as their life and are revolutionary people who will never yield to any pressure or threat.

Our people will never tolerate any act infringing upon the dignity and independence of the nation. We cannot but take necessary self-defense steps in connection with the grave situation that is being created on the Korean peninsula by the criminal act of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The United States should correctly look at reality by discarding the outdated cold war era mentality, and should immediately suspend the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise. The South Korean authorities should immediately abandon the anti-national criminal act to destroy peace and to obstruct national reunification in collaboration with outside forces.

In conclusion, the ambassador expressed the firm belief that governments and peoples of all world countries, who treasure justice and peace, will direct great attention to the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula, will denounce the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, and will extend firm solidarity to our people's struggle for peace and reunification of the country.

The ambassador answered reporters' questions.

PRC Signs Cultural Exchange Agreement

SK0202111893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 2 (KCNA)—The 1993-1994 plan of cultural exchange between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was signed here today.

Present on the Korean side were chairman Chong Chun-ki and Vice-chairman Chon Yon-ok of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and other officials concerned and on the Chinese side were the members of the government cultural delegation led by Vice-minister of Culture Chen Changben and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

Friendship Organization Inaugurated in Japan

SK2901104593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, January 27 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The inaugural meeting of the Tsuruga city assemblymen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship was held in Fukui Prefecture, Japan on January 23.

At the meeting, the steering body of the league was elected, and the question of developing friendly and cooperative relations between the Japanese and Korean peoples discussed.

The league was organized with personages of different parties and groupings in Tsuruga city to realize an early normalization of the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and strengthen a movement for solidarity between the two peoples.

South Korea

Reportage on Visit by Vietnamese Foreign Minister

Economy, Technology Accord Signed

SK0202042993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] ROK Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam signed the ROK-Vietnam Agreement on Economic and Technological Cooperation at the ROK Foreign Ministry on 2 February.

Ministers Hold Talks

SK0202055693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Vietnam agreed Tuesday on annual economic cooperation committee meetings to upgrade trade and technology ties. They also agreed on a wider exchange of government leaders, starting with Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's Seoul visit toward the end of May.

Visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his South Korean counterpart, Yi Sang-ok, met at the Foreign Ministry for more than two hours of talks on bilateral relations.

Seoul and Hanoi established diplomatic relations Dec. 22, restoring ties that were severed when Vietnam became communist in 1975.

The two countries signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation that established the committee, with two subcommittees on economy-trade and science-technology, ministry officials said. The committee will hold its first meeting in Hanoi within the first half of this year, they said.

Vietnam requested loans from Korea's Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and submitted a list of projects, but the two sides differed on the size of the EDCF loan and will have to select viable projects, officials said. Seoul has already agreed on four years of assistance amounting to 500,000 U.S. dollars a year for Vietnam. Seoul, in return, asked that it be able to participate in the development of natural resources in Vietnam's Blue Dragon project, officials said.

They agreed to work on an early conclusion of trade, investment guarantee, and avoidance of double taxation pacts so that they can be signed during Kiet's visit to Seoul, according to the officials.

In the political arena, Seoul and Hanoi emphasized they need to cooperate more through international organizations, the officials said. Yi said Seoul will go ahead and open a consulate-general in Ho Chi Minh city at an early date, while Hanoi will reciprocate when it is ready.

The foreign ministers discussed an exchange of their former embassy sites and agreed in principle to allow each other the use of these properties or their equivalent.

Cam explained to Yi that the Vietnamese Government may soon revise the law to allow privatization of national property. Return of the former South Korean Embassy site in Ho Chi Minh city could be discussed after the revisions, he was quoted as saying.

Minister Meets No Tae-u

SK0202073093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u told visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam on Tuesday that Korea was ready to share its experience in development and technology with Vietnam.

No, receiving a courtesy call from Nguyen at his office, noted that the recently concluded diplomatic ties between the two countries were a significant development not only for the progress of bilateral relations but also for stability and prosperity of East Asia.

He stressed that he found "ample potential" for bilateral cooperation since the economies of the two countries were complementary. He added that the ongoing progress in substantial cooperation brightened the prospects for the two countries to achieve exemplary South-South cooperation.

Kim Yong-sam Vows Expanded Ties

SK0202094693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0934 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday he would strive to expand substantial cooperative relations with Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries after he takes office late this month.

While meeting with visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam at his Democratic Liberal Party office, Kim said he expects the environment surrounding Vietnam would improve so as to better facilitate economic development of Vietnam.

"I hope relations between Vietnam and the United States will be normalized and Vietnam's ties with the rest of Asian countries will improve at an early date," the president-elect said.

He said that in view of the inter-complementarity of economy, the two countries have much potentials of mutual cooperation.

"In this connection, the economy and technology cooperation agreement signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries today will be highly helpful to institutionally backing up economic exchanges between the two countries," Kim said.

Hanoi Accord on Business Ties

SK0202110293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1037 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Korean and Vietnamese business leaders agreed in Hanoi Tuesday on a set of measures to expand economic exchanges between the two countries, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry reported here. The report said the agreement was made at the first joint meeting of the Korea-Vietnam Economic Cooperation Committee held at the Energy Service Center in Hanoi.

At the meeting, the Korean side agreed to furnish their economic development experiences, capital and knowhow to Vietnam, and Vietnam to provide Korea with detailed information on their economic reform programs and plan on introduction of the market economy system. The two sides also agreed to periodically stage joint trade fairs, exhibitions and seminars. The joint committee meeting was attended by about 120 Korean and Vietnamese businessmen including some 40 from Korea.

The Korean attendees included Kim Sang-ha, president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Chong Myong-sik, vice chairman of the Pohang Iron and Steel co.

Russia, DPRK Reportedly To Revise Friendship Treaty

SK0102145093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1410 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Russia and North Korea have agreed to completely revise the [North] Korean-Soviet Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, which contains a clause on military alliance, and various other treaties that had been a basis of state-level relations between the former Soviet Union and North Korea. It has been learned, however, that the two countries have significant differences of opinion on North Korea's nuclear development and other matters concerning North-South relations and international affairs.

Quoting a TASS report from Pyongyang, Japan's KYODO News Agency reported that in today's talks, Russian Vice Foreign Minister Kunadze, who had been visiting North Korea, and North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam had agreed to revise the [North] Korean-Soviet Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, which North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed in 1961, to comply with reality.

ROK, EC, Japan To Coordinate U.S. Steel Tariffs Response

SK0202053593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea will join forces with Japan and the European Community to find a solution to the preliminary countervailing duties slapped on four steel products by the United States, using two international trade negotiations scheduled for this month.

The Korean Government would seek combined political solutions during the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] talks slated for Feb. 9-10 and the Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA) negotiations scheduled for three days from Feb. 24, a source at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry had a countermeasures meeting earlier Tuesday with steel associations and makers, including the Pohang Iron and Steel Corp.

The participants agreed that the U.S. action would dampen international steel trade and obstruct industrial cooperation between Korea and America as it included higher duties on imports of steel products for UPI, a Korea-U.S. joint venture.

The ministry will raise the unfairness of the U.S. action in a Korea-U.S. working-level trade meeting Wednesday and convey Korean firms' views to the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, the source said.

Protest Letter Readied

SK0202084393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a letter protesting U.S. tariffs on imported steel from 19 countries to the Commerce Department, the Trade Representative (USTR), the National Economic Council (NEC) and the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) on Thursday.

Trade and Industry Ministry officials met Tuesday with representatives of the Korea Iron and Steel Association, Union Steel Manufacturing Co., Dongkuk Steel Mill Co. and Dongbu Steel Co., all directly affected by the U.S. move, to draft the letter, according to a spokesman.

The protest letter, to be sent in the name of the trade and industry minister, will say the assertion that the U.S. steel industry was damaged is unreasonable as exports to the United States are regulated under the voluntary restraint agreement.

It will complain that the U.S. Government considered the position of the suitors but not the sued in setting a high dumping margin and recognizing critical conditions.

It will say it is absurd to claim that UPI Steel Co., a Korea-U. S. joint venture, had dealt a blow to American steelmakers. It will also say that the ongoing anti-dumping investigation would make the Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA) negotiations more difficult.

Security Agency To Shift Focus to Economic Collection

SK0202055593 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], which is seeking to reorganize its function with the upcoming inauguration of the new government as an occasion, is pushing ahead to strengthen its activities on international economics and on gathering information for trade with socialist countries in particular.

For this purpose, it has been learned, the NSP is now contacting organizations concerned which are engaged in gathering overseas trade and economic information.

According to a concerned organization, the NSP has decided to sharply strengthen its special trade-information gathering activity in response to the policy of President-elect Kim Yong-sam who has stressed "the need to eliminate the social controversies that the NSP has thus far created by meddling in domestic politics, going beyond its inherent activity of gathering information and intelligence concerning communist activities and North Korea."

At official and private meetings President-elect Kim Yong-sam has often emphasized that "the NSP should rectify the mistake of having created social controversies by meddling in domestic politics and, thus, should be revived as a national security organ, both in name and reality, which defends national interests and national security in conformity with the rapidly changing international situation in the wake of the collapse of the Cold War structure.

It was revealed that in this connection the NSP will stop the work of regulating domestic politics. Instead, in step with moving away from the cold war, the emergence of the era of economic war and change in South-North relations, along with its original work of gathering information on North Korea, the NSP plans to strengthen its work in the activities of gathering information in the fields of science and technology and industry. The NSP decided to greatly strengthen its capability to gather international industrial information. Work is under way with related agencies including the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation [KOTRA] to divide this work.

Among the work of gathering information on foreign economies which was carried out by KOTRA, except for the existing socialist countries that are under the process of changing into a market-oriented economic system, the NSP will be in charge of gathering information in three fields: the rest of the socialist countries; North Korean security-related economic information, except for general trade information; and gathering information on the international military trade, weaponry, and special trade. It was decided that KOTRA will be in charge of gathering information on the rest of the economic field.

Therefore, the NSP will concentrate on gathering information on imports, including machines related to the North's recent development of nuclear weapons and other information including international arms sales. Along with the establishment of the tentatively named "Industrial Intelligence Bureau," the NSP is examining the possibility of dispatching its employees overseas and increasing the amount of economic-related study and research.

In this connection a government official said: "After moving away from the cold war era, it is the trend of the world's many intelligence agencies including the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Russia's KGB to attach more weight to gathering economic information. Since the world has now entered the era of economic war, it is imperative for the NSP to gather high-quality economic information."

Kong No-myong Urges North To Return to Dialogue

SK0202063193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] On 2 February, Kong No-myong, our side's spokesman to the North-South high-level talks, issued a statement regarding North Korea's declaration on refusing North-South dialogue. He urged North Korea to immediately normalize all channels of North-South dialogue. Reporter Han Chae-ho reports:

[Begin Han Chae-ho recording] In his statement, Kong No-myong, our side's spokesman to the North-South high-level talks, stressed that the North side should return to dialogue and normalize the stalemated North-South dialogue. In their statement issued at the end of January, the North side said that it has no intention of resuming dialogue between all authorities concerned. Spokesman Kong No-myong said this means that North Korea is violating the North-South agreements. He urged North Korea to sincerely respond to dialogue, including contacts of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC].

Spokesman Kong No-myong stressed that the North side should hold the North-South JNCC delegates' contact at an earlier date and formulate and sign inspection regulations to dispel suspicions of their nuclear weapon development. Spokesman Kong No-myong also noted that the North side said that it would suspend dialogue under such an unreasonable pretext. We cannot but consider this North Korea's intention to delay the implementation of the North-South basic agreement and the resolution of the nuclear issue. Spokesman Kong No-myong also emphasized that the North and the South should solve all problems between them through dialogue between responsible persons in authority in accordance with the regulations of the North-South agreement which stipulates that the North and South solve differences in opinion and dispute through dialogue.

The North side had said in their delegation's 29 January statement to the North-South high-level talks that they had no intention of resuming any channel of North-South dialogue, including the North-South JNCC talks, if Team Spirit is resumed. [end recording]

Source Says Military May Increase Panmunjom Security

SK0202082493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States may beef up the military security detail in the truce village of Panmunjom because of a chill in inter-Korean relations, a high- placed source at the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

In addition, the United States had decided to retain responsibility for security in the border village for the time being, instead of turning it over to South Korea at the end of September, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The decision comes as North Korea has closed almost every channel of dialogue with South Korea, citing resumption of the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit," and has barred the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from two of its nuclear installations.

The number of U.S. security personnel attached to the unit in charge of the Panmunjom Joint Security Area (JSA) would increase from 109 to 169, he said.

The decision followed a recent routine breakfast meeting between Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the South Korean joint chiefs of staff, and Gen. Robert RisCassi, commander of the U.S. Forces Korea, the source said.

Augumentation would be completed as early as May or by August at the latest, the source said. It would virtually mean a complete revision to an agreement reached between the two countries during the 24th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in October in Washington last year. The two sides had agreed to turn JSA security and command of the unit over to South Korea.

The 500-strong, battalion-level unit comprises Korean and U.S. troops and is on around-the-clock alert. It's American component would act as a trip wire for the United States to intervene immediately if South Korea is ever attacked again by the North.

No Business Visits To North Pending Espionage Apology

SK0102124993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1042 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The government will not approve South Korean businessmen's visits to North Korea at least until North Korea offers an apology over the large espionage ring case uncovered late last year.

"Three leading businessmen were invited by the North last December but we will not permit their visits until North Korea apologizes over the incident," a government official said Monday.

This is under the government policy not to authorize our businessmen's visits to the North in connection with economic cooperation until the North makes such an apology, the official said.

He said Daewoo group chairman Kim U-chung, Samsung co. Vice chairman Yi Pil-kon and Lucky-Goldstar international corp. President Chon Chin-hwan were invited by the North when they met North Korea's Deputy Premier Kim Tal-hyon in Beijing on Dec. 7 and 8.

"During the Beijing meetings, Kim Tal-hyon handed letters of invitation to Yi and Chon suggesting that they discuss detailed projects of economic cooperation in Pyongyang," said the official, adding that Daewoo's Kim U-chung was given invitation earlier.

These people have submitted to the government reports on their meetings with Kim Tal-hyon but they were yet to ask for the government permission of their visits to the North, the official said.

Study Details Restructured Post-Unification Military

SK0202030093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Post-unification Korea should maintain a 400,000- to 460,000-strong active army and restructure the armed services from infantry to technology-intensive, a South Korean military expert says in a recent monograph.

Military manpower in unified Korea should account for 0.6 percent to 0.7 percent of the population, Prof. Kim Chung-young of the National Defense College says in a study on military requirements and arrangements in the post-unification period.

The Army should be reduced to 70 percent of the total manpower, and the Navy and Air Force raised to 15 percent each, Kim says, an assertion that unified Korea's armed forces ought to be sophisticated and high-tech-intensive in light of changing military conditions around the peninsula.

It may be desirable to keep a 280,000- to 320,000-strong army, while increasing the Navy and Air Force to

60,000- to 70,000-odd- strong from 50,000-odd, Kim argues. By his estimate, the Army should maintain three corps, nine divisions and 14 brigades and distribute them nationwide on an equal basis to prevent friction or suspicion from neighboring countries.

Kim based his estimation on a sheer comparison of military powers and the proportion of each service for major advanced and developing countries throughout the world against their populations.

To be specific, Kim recommends that the Army should put the first corps in charge of northern parts of Korea, covering the Hamkyong and Pyongan Provinces, by deploying three divisions and four brigades, while the second corps is made responsible for defending central areas, encompassing the Hwanghae, Kangwon and Kyonggi Provinces, with three divisions and three brigades.

The third corps will be made responsible for defending the Southern Provinces, including the Chungchong, Cholla and Kyongsang Provinces, with three divisions and seven brigades.

Each corps and division should be fully prepared to be upgraded into an army and corps system in equipment and personnel in the case of an eventuality, Kim says. Equal distribution of personnel and equipment may help prevent tensions with neighboring countries and stave off attacks by devices of mass destruction.

The Navy should be advised to move the fleet headquarters in charge of coastal patrols and operations in the Korea Sea (East Sea) to Wonsan, a major port city in South Hamkyong Province, by attaching two flotillas to it.

A marine amphibious division should remain stationed at Pohang, a major industrial port city in North Kyongsang Province, while maintaining a submarine base on Mayang Island near Wonsan, Kim claims.

The fleet headquarters tasked with defending and patroling the South Sea should remain based in Chinhae with two flotillas under its wing base in Pusan and Yosu, while moving the Yellow Sea Fleet to Chinnampo near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang with two flotillas, including one in Inchon near Seoul.

The navy should also manage a naval aviation wing in Kunsan in North Cholla Province in the South. The current naval control center in Chinhae should be retained, he adds.

The Air Force should maintain the current tactical operational command in Osan South of Seoul while basing four wings at Sunan near Pyongyang, Hamhung North of Wonsan, Suwon near Seoul and Taegu. Three auxiliary and support wings should be deployed in the South, including Kunsan, Kim adds.

* New Earth Satellite Prepared

932C0068A Seoul CHUGAN MAEGYONG in Korean 30 Dec 92 pp 40-43

[Article by reporter Yun Ok-sop: "Uribyol-2, a Wholly Korean-Made Satellite, To Be Launched Next September"]

[Text] The launching of "Uribyol-1" may be chosen as the top science news of the year. "Uribyol-1," a small satellite weighing only 48.6 kg planted in us the confidence that we, too, can enter the space industry, and it made Korea the 22d nation in the world that possesses an earth satellite.

People who used to view space as a mysterious dream world have come to witness the sudden advent of "the space age" and feel the closeness of space as they hear radio messages and watch pictures transmitted from "Uribyol-1. Believe it or not, the launching of "Uribyol-1" carrying the ROK's nameplate, so to speak, is the outcome of a certain professor's private research. As the year 1992 was drawing to a close, the reporter called on Choe Sun-tal, director of the Earth Satellite Research Center under the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology [KAIST], at his office. This center may be called the birthplace of "Uribyol-1."

Signals Temporarily Suspended

I asked Director Choe, "Slightly over a month has passed since 'Uribyol-1' was launched. How have you been in this interval?"

Director Choe replied, "Glad to see you (smiling). The satellite is performing its assigned tasks well while circling the earth on its predetermined orbit."

I then asked, "What kind of tasks is it performing?"

Director Choe said in reply: "I think many people listened to the broadcast transmitted by 'Uribyol-1' on the National Foundation Day. Part of President No Tae-u's message addressed to the people hailing the success of the launching of the satellite; Poet Cho Pyonghwa's poem in praise of our satellite; and the conversation between elementary school girls and the satellite; and the national anthem sung by the girls were transmitted to 'Uribyol-1,' and KBS and MBC networks broadcast the voice transmissions sent back from the satellite. The voice transmissions from 'Uribyol-1' could be heard on 435 MHz, a frequency used by hams.

"Usually, signals from 'Uribyol-1' cannot be heard on ordinary radios. But on that day the networks' relay cars were dispatched to the Taedok tracking station, where they set the microphones to the station's receiver to pick up the program sent from the satellite and broadcast it over the nationwide networks . On another occasion, during the 12 December MBC university song festival, MBC transmitted a congratulatory poem read by a college professor to the satellite, which later sent back the recorded poem to the ground station while the festival was in progress, and an MBC relay car relayed it from the ground station throughout the network."

Explaining the mechanism of via-satellite transmissions, Director Choe said that Korean language voice messages are transmitted to the satellite in a digital format by utilizing voice compression technology, and the satellite stores the messages and broadcasts them after changing them to an analog format.

Other tasks of "Uribyol-1" include message storage and transmission experiments, measurement and testing of space radiation, and experimental photographing of the earth surface. Information storage and transmission experiments consist in storing written messages, voices, or images transmitted from the ground and transmitting them later to any point on earth as requested. In cooperation with the Marine Research Institute, KAIST built an earth station on the Sejong Base on Antarctica and is currently equipping the ground station with a software capable of sending and receiving messages between the station and "Uribyol-1."

Experimental measurement of space radiation involves detecting the amount and intensity of space particles emitted by the Sun while the satellite revolves in its orbit around the Sun. In the past a number of small satellites of foreign countries have conducted space radiation environmental tests to observe space radiation's effects on electric charges. But no such experiment has ever been conducted in the space where "Uribyol-1" is orbiting. The experiment is expected to produce important information useful in space development.

In the earth surface photography test, the CCD camera installed in the satellite takes high-resolution and low-resolution pictures of the earth surface. A wide-angle shot covers an area of 2,300 km by 2,300 km, with a dot on the picture corresponds to a 4 km by 4 km area. A narrow-angle shot gives more details because it covers an area of 230 km by 230 km. Image information furnished by "Uribyol-1" are transmitted to the earth station through the transputer [phonetic] image processing system. The electronic image so received can be transformed into photographic images by a simple PC software.

When I asked, "was there any glitch in the past," Director Choe replied: "We suddenly lost contact with 'Uribyol' on 10 November. It did not respond to our command, throwing the ground station into a panic. Fortunately, contact was reestablished after a while. We checked every equipment to determine the cause of the trouble, and found out that the radiation detector was in a state of saturation. Radioactive particles jut out at a fast speed when a solar flair occurs, causing an excess electric voltage, and this makes the satellite shut off its switch automatically, stopping all the circuits."

Satellite To Be Open to World

Choe Sun-tal undertook the artificial satellite development project in August 1989 after resigning his post as chairman of the board of directors of the Science Foundation in order to resume his professorship at the Korea College of Science and Technology (now merged into KAIST). At that time the Science Foundation announced a long-range plan to establish outstanding research centers in universities and provide exceptionally generous research funds to them for a nine-year period.

He received a doctorate from Stanford University in the United States after graduating from Seoul College of Electric Engineering. Subsequently, he conducted a research on communications equipment used in spaceships at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in the California Institute of Technology. Determined to build an earth satellite research center in Korea [while working in the Hanguk College of Science and Technology], Professor Choe agreed with Surry University in Britain to jointly develop a small satellite. He obtained a promise from GEC-Marconi, Britain's largest electronics company, to provide financial assistance when Korean students were dispatched.

Professor Choe had the British university agree to a "study-on-credit plan" which allowed the Korean students to begin studying in the university in 1989, with the payment of their 1989 tuition deferred until 1990. Under this plan, he selected five among the first graduating class of his College of Science and Technology and sent them to Britain. After all, the time required for the development of "Uribyol-1" was shortened by one year thanks to this plan.

These students were given the incentive of working for a master's and doctor's degree while learning satellite building technology, and this incentive proved effective in improving their efficiency. In addition to the financial aid from the British company, the Korean students received assistance from Professor Choe's research grant. A total of 30 students have been dispatched so far. On several occasions he received an advice against subsidizing these students with his own research grant because he might be called to account for the use of his research money.

Professor Choe said to the departing students, half joking, half seriously, "Don't come back until you succeed." The young elite students worked harder than expected. With a 7 billion won in joint aid provided by the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Science Foundation, "Uribyol-1" lifted off into space at 8:08:07 AM on 11 August 1992, less than three years after the project was started.

The following is part of the conversation with Director Choe:

[Yun Ok-sop] In the picture, "Uribyol-1" looks very smaller than expected. Its name sounds intimate to us.

[Choe Sun-tal] The size is 35 cm by 35 cm by 67 cm. Its weight is 48.6 kg, about the weight of a slender woman.

It is a most economic satellite; and as the saying goes, peppers are hotter than large ones and this little satellite performs all functions. We invited our students to name the satellite, but no suitable name was suggested. So, I named it myself. The name is a combination of "Uri" and "byol," the former meaning ours, that is, it belongs to no particular person but belongs to all of us; and the latter symbolizing romance and hope and signifying a satellite at the same time.

No. 2 To Completely Compensate for No. 1's Shortcomings

I asked Director Choe: "We are about to send off the old year and usher in a new year. What kind of plans do you have for 'Uribyol-1' in the coming year?"

In reply, Director Choe Sun-tal said: "Beginning 5 January 1993, we will open 'Uribyol' to all amateur satellite researchers over the world so that they may use it as they wish. They will send and receive messages among them through the satellite. We are currently broadcasting an advertisement in 20 languages including Korean, English, and German informing the listeners that 'Uribyol-1' will be open to public and urging them to use it."

I asked, "how is the 'Uribyol-2' project progressing?"

Director Choe answered: "We plan to launch 'Uribyol-2' on 1 September 1993. 'Uribyol-2' will be the same kind of experimental satellite for scientific and technological testing like the first one. But it will be put on a different orbit so that it may measure other kinds of radioactive particles. We plan to equip it with a device for the detection of low-energy particles. The first satellite was built by our students under the supervision of Englishmen, but the second one will be built by the hands and brains of our people. It will compensate for the shortcomings we have found while operating the first one. The ideas suggested by Korean engineers will be fully reflected in the construction of the second satellite. Instead of carrying on the software developed by Englishmen, we will improve it to suit our needs. In addition, we want to increase the Korean content of the parts as much as possible."

Most of pertinent parts of "Uribyol-2" have been secured under the plan to complete the development of a test model by 15 January 1993. The CCD camera (Samsung Electronics), the printing circuit (Dae-Duck Electronics) among the electronic circuits, and the satellite body (Samung Aeronautics) are about all that can be supplied domestically.

In building the second satellite, emphasis is placed on improving the performance of the transmitter, and increasing the speed of the data transmission speed.

The No. 1 satellite is equipped with two transmitters, one with a 2 W capacity and the other with 10 W capacity. The 2 W transmitter is for normal use, and the 10 W transmitter is used when a large volume of data is transmitted at one time. About a week after "Uribyol-1" was launched, the low-output transmitter stopped functioning, making it necessary to switch to the high-output transmitter. However, the low- output transmitter was put back to work in early December. The satellite passes over our skies at about 7 o'clock in the evening, when the country is on the shady side, causing the temperature to drop significantly. This cool temperature caused a sudden drop in the voltage of the low-output transmitter, resulting in its malfunctioning. For this reason, a study is under way to develop a low-output transmitter for the next satellite which will not be affected by any temperature and voltage change. But the task is not an easy one. Another problem is that it takes "Uribyol-1" 20 minutes to pass over our skies whereas it takes 30 minutes to transmit one picture. So, the whole picture cannot be transmitted during one pass. Therefore, to eliminate this shortcoming, efforts are being made to increase the photo transmission speed and condense the volume of information about in half.

The estimated cost of building the No. 2 satellite is $1 million (790 million won), about the same as the building cost of a large apartment in Seoul because various testing equipment, facilities, and the ground station built for the No. 1 satellite are available for the No. 2.

No Job Security for Researchers

I asked Director Choe, "To what extent are the advanced countries utilizing earth satellites in daily life?"

In reply, Director Choe said: "The public is familiar with communications and weather satellites, and there is a variety of other satellites, such as earth resources satellites used in detecting oil, gold, and other deposits; and disaster observation satellites used in minimizing flood, wildfire, and other damage. Spy satellites launched by technologically advanced countries are so advanced that they can detect the colors of the shoes people are wearing and even the plate numbers of cars. Some time ago I attended the Asia-Pacific conference on small satellites held in China. Countries like China and India whose living standards are lower than ours have satellites, and even a poor country like Mongolia has data processing facilities, though they have no satellite. Those present at the conference discussed the question of how various countries can cooperate in preventing natural disasters."

When I asked, "What are your future plans and tasks?" Director said: "At present the Earth Satellite Research Center is pursuing a single research project under my personal responsibility. It is not an organization run by the state or a university. That is why if I cannot raise research funding, the center will be forced to close down immediately and the 30 permanent and 130 temporary research members will lose their jobs. Despite the absence of job security, they chose the center as their place of work and are working hard far into the night. It is urgent to provide them with a secure livelihood. I think it is a good idea for the Ministry of Science and Technology to establish a "space development committee" by bringing together people engaged in space-related research work in the Aerospace Research Institute, the Electronic Communications Research Institute, universities, and industrial facilities. As far as I am concerned, I would like to develop an observation satellite after bringing the 'Uribyol-2' project to success as a sequel to the Uribyol-1,' which is already in orbit. We have so many pollution problems, such as acid rain, sandy dust phenomena, damage from leafhoppers, sea pollution, river and lake pollution, and pollutants carried by wind. We have to uncover the causes of pollution and work out measures to eliminate them."

Director Choe's catchphrase is "the sky's the limit." To regard the limitless sky as a limit is to deny the "impossible." This catchphrase is indicative of his challenging and yet optimistic philosophy of life. [Under the Fifth Republic] He became the chairman of the board of governors of the Ilhae Foundation after serving as minister of communications. When he was summoned to the National Assembly hearing on the corruption of the Fifth Republic as a witness, some people around him thought that he was finished as a public figure. But he tenaciously held his ground proving his "innocence," and turned himself into an influential scientist in Korea. His nickname is "Choezhnev" because he resembles Brezhnev in appearance, including his raised eyebrows.

Russia Pays Back Partial Interest on Loans

SK0202032293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Russian paid some back interest Monday on tied loans from Seoul, raising the possibility of a resumption of the loans, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

Russia paid 6.4 million U.S dollars of interest for December and now owes only 2.1 million dollars of interest for January on the tied loans.

A Russian delegation arrives Wednesday for consultations with the office of supply on providing aluminum ingot in payment of interest, which amounted to 36.8 million dollars in November, on cash loans from Korea.

Hyundai Heavy Industries President Indicted

SK3101010293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Choe Su-il, president of Hyundai Heavy Industries, and four other company officials were indicted yesterday for providing illegally-raised secret funds to the United People's Party (UPP) for the Dec. 18 presidential election.

The four others of the Hyundai firm indicted are Chang Pyong-su, 52, managing director; Yi Sang-kyu, 40, chief of finance department; Mun Chong-pak, an employee for foreign exchange and loans; and Im Yang-hui, a clerk for deposits and withdrawals.

Prosecutors said that Hyundai Heavy Industries, one of the major subsidiaries of the Hyundai Business Group, illegally raised 66 billion won (about 84 million U.S. dollars) as secret funds and funneled some 50 billion won to the UPP headed by Chong Chu-yong.

They were charged with embezzlement in violation of the Law on Aggravated Punishment of Specific Economic Crimes.

The Hyundai firm raised the secret funds by falsifying accounting ledgers regarding the exportation of ships from Jan. 22 to Dec. 1 last year, a spokesman of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Official said.

Company officials made payment vouchers as if the 66 billion won were spent for buying components for ships, according to the prosecutors.

UPP leader Chong Chu-yong, who founded the nation's largest business conglomerate, will also be indicted on same charges after he returns home from Japan sometime this week.

Chong and other officials may face several years imprisonment each under the relevant law. If money misappropriated or embezzled amounts to over 5 billion won, those involved in the illegal practice may face capital punishment or from seven years in prison to life imprisonment under the Law on the Aggravated Punishment of Specific Economic Crimes, which went to effect in 1984.

Prosecutors said that they secured evidence to substantiate embezzlement charges against Chong despite his denial of them.

Prosecutors said that Choe, president of Hyundai Heavy Industries, received a request from Yi Pyong-kyu, chief secretary to then Hyundai Group honorary chairman Chong Chu-yong, to provide 1 billion won each month for the founding and operation of the UPP, during a meeting at the group headquarters in central Seoul.

Delegates To Attend Asia-Pacific Disarmament Seminar

SK2801145793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1206 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 28 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean officials will attend an Asia-Pacific area disarmament seminar slated for Feb. 1-3 in Katmandu, Nepal, the Foreign Ministry reported Thursday.

The two officials will be Kwon Pyong-hyon, head of the Foreign Ministry office for foreign policy planning, and Yi So-hang, professor at the Foreign Affairs and National Security Institute. The annual seminar is expected to be attended by about 40 diplomats and scholars from some 30 countries in the region including North Korea.

* Kim Yong-sam Victory To Redraw Political Map

* Big Change in DLP

932C0062A Seoul TONGA ILBO in Korean 21 Dec 92 P 5

[Article by Kim Cha-su: "Prospects for Post-Election Structural Change in the DLP"]

[Text] Currently, attention is focused on what the new post-election DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] hierarchy will be like. During his campaign, President-elect Kim Yong-sam promised that if he was elected, the first thing he would do would to restructure the DLP. DLP insiders are of the opinion that to build a new Korea by combating the Korean disease—the curing of this disease was the most important of all his election pledges—a wholesale reform of the inner structure of the ruling party is inevitable.

The present DLP structure retains its transitory character as one aimed at winning victory in the presidential election while overcoming the aftereffects of the three-party merger as well as the factional infight which had persisted until shortly before the election. However, now that President-elect Kim Yong-sam has become the center of power both in name and reality in the ruling party, it has become urgent for the DLP to reorganize its party structure in such a way as to insure his personal leadership among others, before taking over the reins of government. In connection with the party reorganization, the following tasks may be regarded as matters of concern: Forming a transition team; reshuffling the party bureaucracy; forming a new cabinet; selecting a presidential staff; assigning posts as a reward to some of those who rendered distinguished services in the presidential election campaign; and consolidating private organizations affiliated with the party.

DLP officials expect that the timing for this slew of measures related to party restructuring will be taken in conjunction with the formation of a transition team which will take place late this year at the earliest, or early next year at the latest. During his first press conference on 19 December following the election, President-elect Kim said that a transition team would be formed at an early date without giving any specifics, such as the criteria for the selection of its members. Nevertheless, through his staff he reportedly has worked fairly detailed reform plans that he will pursue when he takes over the reins of government. According to his aides, the transition team will not only make preparations for the takeover of the government and the inauguration of the new administration but assume the responsibility of defining fundamental policy principles.

Attention is now focused not so much on who will be on the transition team as on its framework. Chong Won-sik, the chairman of the presidential election policy committee, and Kim Yun-hwan, standing vice chairman of the same, are considered the most influential candidates for the head of the transition team. Chong Won-sik, former prime minister, has won recognition for his meritorious services in leading the campaign committee smoothly while effectively selling Kim Yong-sam's campaign slogan "renewal accompanied by stability." Kim Yun-hwan, on the other hand, is recognized as one who has played a leading role in enlisting the support of the pro-Kim Yong-sam electorate in the Taegu-Kyongbuk area.

The selection of the transition team, including its chairman, is expected to take shape by this weekend.

The prevailing view is that Kim Chong-pil will lead the DLP in his capacity as its chairman in the transitional period before the installation of a new government. However, who will fill the four vacant seats of the DLP Supreme Council is a matter of the foremost concern in relation to the party restructuring. Complexly linked to the task of appointing Supreme Council members, which has a close relationship with a change in the power structure within the party, are how to distribute power among the various factions and what regional considerations should be made.

According to prevailing speculation, Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Chun-ku, and Yi Han-tong, vice chairmen of the Election Policy Committee, are likely candidates among the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] faction for the Supreme Council; and among the influential members of the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] faction, either Assemblyman Choe Hyong-u or Assemblyman So Sok-chae will be appointed to a Supreme Council seat. In Chong Won-sik's case, it is speculated that even if he heads the transition team, he may be subsequently given a party post as a Supreme Council member.

It is expected that consideration will be given to the Honam area in appointing Supreme Council members in view of the assurance President-elect Kim made during the campaign that he would strive to combat regionalism through a bold personnel action. For a Supreme Council seat supposedly apportioned to the Honam area, Choe Yong-chol, vice prime minister and concurrently minister of national unification; Hwang In-song, chairman of the Policy Affairs Committee; and Assemblyman Kim Sik-chon are seen as likely candidates.

The three executives, namely, Secretary General Kim Yong-ku, Policy Affairs Chairman Hwang In-song, and Floor Leader Kim Yong-tae, have faithfully performed their respective duties. But it will be inevitable to replace them to pave the way for a system that will allow Kim Yong-sam to govern in person.

President-elect Kim is expected to make a sweeping reshuffle of low-level party posts as part of giving recognition to those who have rendered meritorious services in the election campaign.

In connection with the problem of appointing the next cabinet and selecting a new Chongwadae staff, the president-elect said he would consider not only DLP officials but also businessmen and even opposition figures as candidates.

One of Kim Yong-sam's close aides disclosed that the first consideration will be given to appointing party officials to economy-related posts in the new cabinet, considering the fact that many key election pledges were related to the economy. Special assistants and other aides assisted Kim Yong-sam during the presidential election by moving like his shadow, reading his mind well, and a considerable number of them are expected to be shifted laterally to the new staff.

Kim Yong-sam once said that he would draw a clear line of demarcation between those who rendered meritorious services in the election campaign and those who failed to do so. But now that he has won, one of his close aides said, the president-elect would be more concerned about rewarding than about punishing. Nevertheless some form of action is expected to be taken against those local party chairmen who were passive in the campaign, particularly those district chairmen who even failed to properly spend the campaign funds supplied from the headquarters.

Reorganization of private groups is also one of the important matters associated with the revamping of the party structure. Private organizations, such as the Campaign Headquarters for the Practice of Patriotism, the Democratic Alpine Club, and the Central Council of Youth Movements, played a significant role during the presidential campaign, although some of them became a subject of controversy. At a time when the use of public organizations in mobilizing voters in campaign speech meetings was restrained on a voluntary basis, hundreds of members of these private organizations poured into each of the meeting sites to stir up enthusiasm. Admittedly, they contributed to some extent to the behind-the-scenes activities to get votes.

Most of the members of these private organizations, including the Democratic Alpine Club, joined the DLP during the election campaign. Therefore, party officials in charge of organization said, low-level mechanisms of these front organizations will be naturally absorbed into the DLP's official party organizations. When appointments are made, it is expected that special consideration will be made for Assemblymen Choe Hyong-u, So Sok-chae, Kim Tok-yong, and other key party officials who controlled these private organizations, as well as for Kim Yong-sam's secretaries including Chief Secretary Choe Chang-yun, in recognition of their distinguished services in the election campaign.

* Changes in the Opposition

932C0062B Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 21 Dec 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Direction of Political Restructuring To Be Watched Closely"

[Text] The outcome of the 14th presidential election that ended in an overwhelming victory for the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] presages a sweeping redrawing of the political map. Now that the DLP is assured of holding the reins of government for another term, it needs to drastically readjust and reorganize its current structure to function properly as the party in power.

The DP [Democratic Party] is in a somber mood over its miserable defeat in the election which has forced Kim Tae-chung to retire from politics for good, and the party also needs to put the house in order.

The UPP [United Peoples Party], on the other hand, is in a state of stupor ecause the whirlwind of popularity it was supposed to create just turned out to be a zephyr, and it finds itself in a more troublesome situation than any other party.

For its own reasons each party has to expedite structural reorganization, and public attention seems to be focused on this restructuring.

How will the reorganization be carried out, and under what principles and standards?

Before undertaking reorganization, the parties should first consider the prerequisites. In other words, they must set reasonable and objective directions, principles, and standards and then select the right people who will meet these requirements. If they instead begin by selecting the people first, then the reorganization is bound to draw the criticism that there has been no principles and standards.

If so, where should the principles and standards be found? They should be found in the minds and wishes of the people as demonstrated in the recent election.

The DLP won because the people wished that it will put an end to the internal squabble, the aftermath of the merger, and behave like a united and harmonious family both in name and deed. If the party in power continues to split and squabble, it is impossible to push for "renewal accompanied by stability." First of all, the DLP should achieve stability in its own house in an atmosphere of harmony. If the DLP is unstable inside, it cannot function in a responsible manner as the party in power. It will be difficult to completely rule out any special consideration for those who rendered distinguished services in the election campaign. Still, care should be exercised to choose people of all factions fairly.

However, in making personnel selection the DLP should keep in mind that if it is over concerned about the arithmetic of distribution and appoint those persons who caused the Korean disease or who are seriously afflicted with the Korean disease beyond remedy, it will be difficult to build a new Korea.

In the past the DP, the integrated opposition party, has been under the Kim Tae-chung/Yi Ki-taek leadership. But with the retirement of Kim Tae-chung, it is now at the threshold of a period of great change. The opposition party now has reached the stage that calls for a leadership of the second generation, making it inevitable to change its chemistry. The exit of Mr. Kim Tae-chung from the political scene has left the DP with the arduous task of combating its regional tendency, which is strongly linked to him as the center of gravity as was demonstrated once again in the recent election. In addition, the party needs to redefine its relationship with the dissident forces because many people attribute the DP's defeat in the election to this relationship.

In this sense, the DP should approach the task of revamping its structure from a more fundamental and pragmatic point of view.

In the last National Assembly election, the UPP drew much attention as a new party. But it now faces the greatest crisis ever since its inauguration due to its defeat in the recent presidential election. There are many issues yet to be settled, ranging from the question of responsibility for the stunning defeat to the problems concerning Chairman Chong Chu-yong's future course of action and the merger with the New Korea Party. How to deal with its relationship with the Hyundai group—the UPP even publicly stated that all Hyundai employees are its members—and the aftermath of the money-driven campaign is not a small matter. In undertaking a structural revamping, the UPP should begin by approaching all these problems. In the recent presidential election the New Political Party (NPP) ushered in a new phase in politics by Pak Chan-chong's money-saving campaign. This is the kind of party the public should pay attention to in the future. We should watch carefully Mr. Pak's desperate struggle to sow the seeds of new politics in defiance of the conventions of old politics. We hope that the NPP will not disappear like a bubble but redouble its efforts to spread the new ethos.

* Kim Yong-sam's 'Kingmakers'

932C0063A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 92 p 5

[Article by reporter Chong Chin-sok: "Kingmakers' Behind Kim Yong-sam's Victory; Three-Way Cooperation Among the Campaign Staff, Retainers, and Advisory Group"]

[Text] The people chose Kim Yong-sam as next president.

The public who have experienced all hardships with him while watching his political adversities for these 40 years are the real heroes who have paved the way for the emergence of "President Kim Yong-sam." That is why his victory is a victory for the public.

However, there are some people who brought Kim Yong-sam close to the public. They are the ones who encouraged him to keep the fire of his fighting spirit for democracy burning without faltering and bolstered him in the vortex of fierce power struggle. They are the Kim Yong-sam men who held him tight when he was wavering, and who acted according to his will.

"The YS men" who played the role of the so-called kingmakers' by devoting their all to accomplishing the goal of making him president are diverse as they come from a wide spectrum of society. In the presidential campaign process, each had a distinctive assignment. Furthermore the DLP's [Democratic Liberal Party] electioneering mechanism was divided into two wings, official party organizations and private organizations. Therefore it seems inappropriate to try to single out the one that rendered the most distinguished services among the Kim Yong-sam followers. If we are to arbitrarily classify them roughly, they may be divided into three categories: the personages of the new mainstream in the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] faction who participated in the election campaign machinery; the key intimates known as "retainers" who were in control of private organizations affiliated with the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] faction; and the advisory group which acted as Kim Yong-sam's brain trust behind the scenes.

—Election Policy Committee Chairman Chong Won-sik, who was at the helm of the DLP electioneering machine, played his role creditably as the ballast among Kim Yong-sam's campaign group. Chong Won-sik tried particularly hard to improve Kim Yong-sam's image and made the election slogan "reform accompanied by stability" sound more persuasive to the public by making the best of his unique command of systematic logic. Although a stranger to politics, he smoothly led the complex campaign machinery, a fact that is indicative of his new possibilities.

The one person that cannot be left out among those who have contributed to making the "present-day Kim Yong-sam" is Kim Yun-hwan, vice chairman of the Election Policy Committee. While Kim Yong-sam was going through his vicissitudes before being nominated as presidential candidate, Kim Yun-hwan stood in the van of the efforts to remove obstacles and bring the divided "TK [Taegu-Kyongbuk] votes" together. In doing so, he played the role of the main thrust in bringing the bouquet of victory to the candidate. He was a key man of uncontested real influence, but he restrained his own views as much as possible during the campaign period, unfailingly playing his role as the big brother so that the rest of the "YS men" might devote themselves to the campaign in the spirit of harmony and cooperation.

Secretary General Kim Yong-ku, who was in charge of the operational aspect of the campaign, minimized the conflict between the official party organizations and private organizations by the principled management of the campaign machine and played the leading role in waging an effective campaign. Because he was not an intriguing man, he was able to control the campaign machine, not obsessed with power, and set a new example of virtues by adhering to his maxim "be patient hundred times and think things over three times." The early misgivings that the campaign machine might not function smoothly gradually disappeared as time went by, and it was soon put on the right track thanks to Kim Yong-ku's disinterested handling of party affairs.

Among those who devoted themselves to the fierce campaign on the foremost front are: Yi Chun-ku and Yi Han-tong, vice chairmen of the Election Policy Committee; Floor Leader Kim Yong-tae; Spokesman Pak Ki-tae; Choe Pyong-yol, chairman of the Planning Committee; Yi Hae-ku, director-general of National Campaign Headquarters; Kim Un-hang, chief of the security group.

—Choe Hyong-u, So Sok-chae, Pak Kwan-yong, Kim Tok-yong, and Yi Won- chong. These are the longtime Kim Yong-sam men who tearfully rejoiced at his victory in the presidential election. The Gang of Five—each of them is his right-hand man—worked 25 hours a day at his Sangdo-tong home to help Kim Yong-sam prove his mettle in history. Assemblyman Choe Hyong-u controlled the Campaign Headquarters for the Practice of Patriotism (Nasabon) and the Democratic Alpine Club during the campaign period. Throughout the campaign period he helped Kim Yong-sam secure his march toward victory by encouraging these two private organizations on the fore front of the campaign, with his unique staying power, in the face of the offensive of the opposing forces. Assemblyman Choe Sok-chae, in a manner worthy of his reputation as a master of organization, checked on potential pro-Kim Yong-sam voters by working the grass roots throughout the country. He succeeded in rallying private organizations around Kim Yong-sam while consolidating support bases in special organizations such as the Buddhist community.

Assemblyman Pak Kwan-yong tried hard to create a new image of Kim Yong-sam while working as chairman of the party's public relations committee. He presented Kim Yong-sam's image as a man who is one step closer to the masses. Assemblyman Kim Tok-yong rebuilt Chungchong, the youth organization affiliated with the former RDP, and helped it play the vanguard role in electioneering in the 14th presidential election. He accurately read the candidate Kim Yong-sam's mind and helped him fulfill his "grand design" by sharing bitters and sweats with him. Deputy spokesman Yi Won-chong did not stop at being the party's deputy spokesman but was truly the sentinel of the feverish presidential campaign. He commanded an ad hoc public relations team. At the news of the bundles of money distributed by the UPP among eligible voters, he was the first to rush to Taejon, the site of the reported irregularity. They say he worked so hard that 24 hours a day was not enough for him. His humane character, above else, was consciously or unconsciously overlapped with Kim Yong-sam's new image, and this overlapping is being brought into focus from another angle of view.

—Around President-Elect Kim there are many unsung heroes who played a role as important as that of the known loyalist aides who rendered meritorious services.

Kim Yong-sam's secretaries worked in perfect harmony with him and he is thankful to them. Special aides and other secretaries surrounding Chief Secretary Choe Chang-yun worked as Kim Yong-sam's brain and heart in the campaign.

O Yin-hwan, special assistant for political affairs, working as a key member of the planning committee, spread the theme of the "general drift" [in favor of the candidate Kim Yong-sam] by taking such steps as the occasion demanded while practically leading all the other aides. Together with Yi Kyong-chae, special assistant for public relations, O In-hwan wrote various speeches for the candidate Kim Yong-sam with his superb writing skill. But above all, he is credited with having presented a concrete, detailed "election strategy." In addition to Yi Kyong-chae, special assistant for political affairs, and Pak Chae-yun, special assistant for economic affairs, the following eight aides hustled in the campaign, working closely with the candidate. They are: Kim Chung-wi in charge of political affairs; Han Yi-hon in charge of economic affairs; Chong Chu-nyon in charge of protocol; Hong In-kil in charge of general affairs; Chang Hak-no in charge of civil affairs; Kim Mu-song in charge of policy affairs; Nam Chu-hong in charge of foreign relations and foreign affairs; and Pak Chong-ung in charge of party affairs. Particularly Hong In-kil and Chang Hak-no among these aides, and Assistant Kim Ki-su, Kim Yong-sam's shadow, are one with Kim Yong-sam in spirit and body reflect his present as well as his past like a fossil.

—Prominent among those who have played their advisory role on the sideline while maintaining a close relationship of cooperation with the organizations directly under Kim Yong-sam are: Seoul University Professors Han Wan-sang and Yi Myong-hon and Yonsei University Professor Choe Pyong-kil. They are the brains who came up with the ideas of "combatting the Korean disease" and "building a new Korea," the catch phrases used by the candidate Kim Yong-sam.

In addition, there was a group of personages who did not belong to the party but exercised their political influence for Kim Yong-sam on the fringe. Included in this "fringe group" are: So Tong-kwon, special assistant to the president; Yi Sang-yon, former director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP]; Son Chu-hwan, former minister of information; and Assemblymen Kum Chin-ho and Yi Won-cho. Presidential Assistant So played a decisive role in imbuing the ruling party with the "theme of the general drift" in the latter part of 1991 when he was NSP director. Former NSP director Yi took over the baton from his predecessor, Yi Won-cho, and played his behind-the-scenes role in having Kim Yong-sam nominated as DLP presidential candidate. Son Chu-hwan, Kim Yong-sam's wife's cousin, gave full play to his unique political influence and journalistic sense while playing his role as "the bridge" connecting the Chongwadae and Sangdo-tong.

Assemblyman Kum Chin-ho, the husband of President No Tae-u's wife's sister, and Assemblyman Yi Won-cho, a longtime intimate of President No, contributed to influencing "nosim," the inner mind of President No, and reportedly worked hard to secure campaign funds behind the scenes during the campaign period.

Among Kim Yong-sam's family circles, his second son, Hyon-chol, and Yi Chang-hae, the husband of his oldest daughter, played their supportive role in Kim Yong-sam's campaign. They did not act overtly because they are the candidate's close relatives. But they watched his every move at the closest range than anybody else, giving him encouragement and uplifting his spirit. In Hyon-chol's case, he led a public opinion survey group on the one hand and demonstrated his outstanding ability to collect information through various channels on the other hand.

Yi Chang-hae, Hyon-chol's brother-in-law, did his best to convey his objective views and analyses of the situation to Kim Yong-sam, his father-in-law, meeting him face to face from time to time.

According to belated reports, Yi Hae-chang strongly presented his opinion that the candidate Kim Yong-sam's image as a reformer should be enhanced still more in the final stage of the election campaign.

In the final analysis, it is Kim Yong-sam himself that made him the next president. The reason is that although many people around him helped him pave his way to the Chongwadae, no one can surpass the indomitable will and tenacity that he has demonstrated throughout 40 years of his political life.

Burma

Qian Qichen Arrives, Issues Press Release

BK0102151993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Qian Qichen, member of the PRC State Council and minister of foreign affairs, and a 10-member goodwill delegation arrived in Yangoon [Rangoon] by air at 1645 today.

Mr. Qian Qichen and delegation were welcomed at Yangon airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, minister of health; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, minister of religious affairs and Yangon military command commander; Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance; Brig. Gen. Myo Thant, minister of information; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; U Tin Aung Tun, Myanmar [Burmese] Ambassador to PRC, and responsible personnel; Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador of PRC, and embassy officials.

The visiting goodwill delegation was presented with flower bouquets on their arrival at Yangon airport.

It has been learned that Mr. Qian Qichen delivered a press release on arrival at Yangon airport.

In the press release Mr. Qian Qichen said he and his delegation were happy to get the opportunity to visit Yangon at the invitation of the government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma]. PRC and Myanmar, which share about 2100 km of common border, are friendly neighbors and the two peoples have built a firm friendship. If one looks back to the early 1950s, the two countries have joined together and have taken the leading role in the birth of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. The two countries have also signed a joint border agreement in the early 1960s. In recent years, in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence, there have been improvements of bilateral cooperation in the trade and economy sector.

He explained, during his visit, that he hopes to exchange views with Burmese leaders on bilateral cooperation and other matters of mutual interests. He noted his visit will further boost the bilateral cooperation and friendship between the two peoples and believes it will further enhance goodwill and good neighborliness. He expressed his wishes for the prosperity of Myanmar and health to the Burmese people.

Khin Nyunt Hosts Dinner

BK0102152993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Qian Qichen, member of the PRC State Council and minister of foreign affairs, and his delegation which are currently in Yangon [Rangoon], called on Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], at the No.2 Military Guest House at 1830 today.

Present at the meeting were Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC; Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, minister of health; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, minister of transport; Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador of PRC.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1, hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Qian Qichen and delegation at the No.2 Military Guest House. Also present at the dinner were SLORC members, ministers, the mayor, senior military officials, and PRC ambassador Mr. Liang Feng.

Reportage on Progess of National Convention

Delegate Arrested for Jade Possession

BK0102160093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The security force at Mandalay airport searched passengers from the flight from Hkamti to Mandalay on the afternoon of 25 January. During the search, two pieces of jade were found in the possession of Dr. Maung Maung, son of U Hla Baw, representative of the national races at the national convention from Sagaing Division. Preparation are being made to take legal action against him. Thus, the Commission for Convening the National Convention has dropped Dr. Maung Maung as a delegate of the national convention, effective 30 January for violating Section (A) of Paragraph 5 and Section (D) of Paragraph 8 of the procedures concerning the convening of the national convention.

Delegate Removed at Request of NLD

BK0102162493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] It has been learned that at the request of the National League for Democracy [NLD], the Commission for Convening the National Convention has removed the name of U Aung Htoo, representative of the NLD from Gangaw constituency, from a list of delegates to the national convention. Thus, there are 700 delegates today who are to attend the national convention compared to 702 delegates on the opening of the national convention.

Panel Chairmen Elected

BK0102163593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Delegates attending the National Convention were divided into eight groups and they held discussions at their respective venues beginning at 1000 today. The National Convention Convening Work Committee members explained procedures to be followed in the election of the panel of chairmen in accordance with the prescribed regulations.

The group discussions were held as follows:

Meeting Hall 1—delegates from national races group;

Meeting Hall 2—other specially invited delegates group;

Meeting Hall 3—technocrats and intelligentsia delegates group;

Meeting Hall 4—delegates from political parties group and elected representatives group;

Meeting Hall 6—workers delegates group;

Meeting Hall 7—peasant delegates group;

Meeting Hall 8—public service personnel delegates group.

The combined delegates from political parties group and elected representatives group together elected 10 members of the panel of chairmen, while each of the other groups elected five members of the panel of chairman.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by delegates from political parties group:

1. U Tun Yin Law, National Unity Party;
2. Daw May Than Lwin, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy;
3. U Phillip San, Wa National Development Party;
4. U Li Kwan Chin, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party;
5. U Tharzan Hla, National League for Democracy.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by delegates from elected representatives group:

1. U James Bond, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party;
2. U San Tha Aung, Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization;
3. U Daniel Aung, Lahu National Development Party;
4. U Maung Gyi, Union Pa-O National Organization;
5. U Mahn Tin Aung Than, Union Kayin League.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by delegates from national races group:

1. U Kyi Nyunt, Yangon [Rangoon] Division;
2. U Khin Maung Si, Irrawaddy division;
3. U Naing San Shein, Mon State;
4. U Mya Sein, Mandalay Division;
5. U Mahn Ohn Maung, Karen State.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by the peasant delegates group:

1. U Kan Nyunt, Khamti Township, Sagaing Division;
2. U Sai Tint Aung, Hsenwi Township, Shan State;
3. U Maung Maung Thein, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division;
4. U Thein Lwin, Myaungmya Township, Irrawaddy division;
5. U Tin Maung Kyaw, Yesagyo Township, Magwe Division.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by the workers delegates group:

1. U San Tin, Bassein West Township, Irrawaddy Division;
2. U Soe Maung, Chauk Township, Magwe Division;
3. U Shwe Than, Dalla Township, Yangon Division;
4. U Bo Myint, Monywa Township, Sagaing Division;
5. U Tin U, Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by the technocrats and intelligentsia delegates group:

1. U Khin Zaw, film director;
2. U Hla Myint, head of office;
3. U Ba Han, director general;
4. U Tin Maung, director general;
5. U Aung Than, rector.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by the public service personnel delegates group:

1. U Kyi Aye, ministry of planning and finance;
2. U Khin Maung Htoo, ministry of transport;
3. Lieutenant Colonel Thaik Tun, ministry of defense;
4. U Tun Shwe, ministry of labor;
5. U Ant Maung, ministry of religious affairs.

The following were chosen as members of the panel of chairman by the specially invited delegates group:

1. U Ko, retired ambassador;
2. U Zakhum Tint Nyein, Kachin State Special Region No.8;
3. U Sai Aung Tun, retired headmaster;
4. Dr. Maung Maung Sein, retired director general;
5. U Wan Tin, retired commissioner.

They were unanimously elected as members of the panel of chairman by the various delegate groups and the meetings ended in the afternoon.

Similarly, the National Convention Convening Work Committee has chosen the following as members of the panel of chairmen;

1. U Tin Tun;
2. U Myo Thant;
3. Dr. Thaung Myint;
4. Dr. Than Nyunt;
5. U Aye Thwin.

Chief Justice Speaks

BK0202081393 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Speech by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, at the National Convention at Rangoon's Kyaikkasan Grounds—recorded]

[Text] Distinguished National Convention delegates: I would first like to express my pleasure in seeing the distinguished delegates again in good health and I extend my warm welcome to all of you. Today, we congregate in this great hall to welcome all the convention delegates and to explain a few points on the National Convention agenda on which we should work in harmony.

The tasks to be carried out at the National Convention which continued today, 1 February 1993, are as follows: 1. Formation of the panel of chairmen; 2. Coordination and discussion to obtain headings for various chapters of the state constitution in order to hold extensive and systematic discussions on drafting the constitution; 3. Prescribing headings for each chapter after extensive and thorough consultations among the distinguished delegates. We have these three major stages in our task of obtaining the basic principles relevant to each of the chapters.

Distinguished delegates: I would like to elaborate on a few points related to the first stage of forming the panel of chairmen. In accordance with Article 9 of the National Convention Procedural Rules, each category of delegates is to select five chairmen for the panel. The panel chairmen are to supervise the group meetings of various categories of delegates and to supervise from time to time the plenary sessions of the National Convention.

The responsibilities and rights of the panel of chairmen are prescribed in Articles 15 and 16 of the National Convention Procedural Rules. The distinguished delegates are likely to have read these articles. Therefore, the delegates are to select according to their wishes five panel chairmen for each of their groups who will supervise group meetings and plenary sessions of the National Convention. I believe the procedures will be carried out successfully as our National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC] will send three committee members to each group of delegates to help supervise and assist in the selection of panel chairmen.

Selection of five panel chairmen by each group is to begin this morning in respective meeting halls. If the selection of panel chairmen of various groups is not complete by this morning or this afternoon, it can be carried out the next day.

Distinguished delegates: The next task after forming the panel of chairmen is to hold group discussions in order to obtain headings for each chapter. As the delegates have had ample time to study, I hope they have already obtained the necessary headings.

In my speech delivered on 11 January at the National Convention, I explained about prescribing headings in drafting the state constitution. To reiterate this point, I explained that the difference in the headings contained in the constitutions can be seen not only among different countries, but also whenever another constitution is drawn in the same country. Howver, even though there may be certain variations in the usage and nomenclature, there are similarities in the concept.

Basically, headings such as the following are the same in principle: State Structure; Basic Principles of the State; Citizens; Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens; the Head of State; the Legislature; the Executive; the Judiciary; the Attorney General; the Inspector General; Electoral System; and Amendment of the Constitution.

These headings are found in constitutions of various states under various usage and nomenclature. In drafting the headings in detail, the natural condition, historical experience and prevailing conditions in politics, economics, social structure, culture, and traditional heritage are taken into consideration.

I had also presented the headings which should be submitted at the National Convention and which are in accordance with the six objectives of the convention. These headings were: State Structure; Basic Principles of the State; the Head of State; the Legislature; the Executive; the Judiciary; the Defense Services; the Attorney General; the Inspector General; the Local Adminstration; Citizens; Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens; Public Service Personnel; the Electoral System; Political Parties; and Amendment of the Constitution.

I had also mentioned in my 11 Jaunary speech that in addition to these topics, discussions can be held to add or delete any headings to those I have presented.

Distinguished delegates: Delegates are to discuss and consult to obtain headings for each chapter and each group is to prepare the headings. This task is basic, but important. It is necessary for the delegates to discuss and consult thoroughly and carefully on this task as the proverb says a good beginning presages a successful conclusion. Therefore, there is no time limit for the task of prescribing headings for each chapter and the delegates can discuss and consult until they are fully satisfied.

When each of the eight groups of delegates have completed the task of submitting their report on headings, we will arrange to hold a plenary session. When the plenary session of the National Convention is held, representatives of each group of delegates will have a chance to submit the report on the headings prepared by respective groups. The other delegates will have a chance to hear and study the submissions made by group representatives at the plenary session. What is presented by each group may not be the same; the headings presented may be the same or they may be different. Deliberations will be held on these headings until the heading of each chapter acceptable to the majority is obtained. Each group is to fully explain why the headings they recommend should be included. Deliberations at the convention are not likely to be concluded in one sitting in one day.

Some groups may like to note down the headings presented by other groups and may like to compare them to their group's headings and hold discussions. After holding discussions until they are satisfied, eight groups of delegates are to coordinate and prescribe in order to obtain headings for each chapter [of the state constitution] that are acceptable to all at the convention and are in accordance with the six set objectives. After headings for each chapter are unanimously agreed upon, the list of headings for each chapter will be obtained. Next, the delegates of each group are to deliberate on the first heading from the list in order to obtain basic principles related to the heading.

We will arrange for the delegates to have sufficient time for preparation to hold expansive discussions and study on the headings. In deliberating on headings of each chapter, political parties will be allowed to present the issues to their respective party organization and to consult. They can hold discussions either at their place of accommodation at Kyaikkasan Grounds or, if they wish to hold consultations in their home town, they are to make their own arrangements. It will be necessary for the distinguished delegates to hold their discussions with patience and magnanimity in order to obtain the basic principles for each heading of each chapter.

After the delegates have satisfactorily obtained the basic principles on the first heading of the chapter, they are to proceed to the second heading and hold the discussions patiently. Likewise, they are to proceed with their discussions to other headings in the similar manner.

As for our National Convention Convening Work Committee, we have made preparations to enable the delegates to hold solemn and expansive discussions in order to obtain the basic principles for drafting the state constitution, which is very vital to the state, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Convention Convening Commission.

We will also provide the necessary administrative work for the delegates to the best of our ability.

Distinguished delegates: As mentioned in the 9 January speech by Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, the drafting of the state constitution is the most delicate and arduous task of the greatest importance which will not tolerate any error. Therefore, all of us are to work with diligence and zeal and to undertake the task as a national duty of top priority. I conclude by urging you to take pride and joy in having the opportunity of discharging this noble and important national duty and to strive to fully and successfully discharge this great duty by consulting each other in unity. [applause]

955 Refugees Repatriated From Bangladesh 31 Jan

BK0102153193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement between the two countries on repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, three delegates led by respective camp officials of the country on the other side [Bangladesh] on 31 January transferred 955 returnees—479 males and 476 females—from 203 households to our three reception centers.

It has been learned that since 22 September 1992 a total of 18,028 persons—8,804 males and 9,224 females—from 3,954 households, who illegally left the country, have been accepted through 31 January.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Government Wants More Bruneians Hired

BK0202093693 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 21 Dec 92 p 1

[By Lawrence Eaton]

[Text] Authorities in Brunei Darussalam are studying the possibility of introducing legislation under which the private sector companies will be required to employ Bruneians instead of depending entirely on specialised foreign labour.

Speaking after a ceremony at the Abdul Razak Apartments, to present the Yaohan Award for the best student from ITB's [Institute of Technology of Brunei] Business and Finance course, Commissioner for Labour, Yang Berbahagia Dato Paduka Awg [local honorary title] Hj Abd Aziz said visible differences separate the government and private sector.

"One of the ways is for the private sector to have better schemes and salary structures like giving them incentives in the form of allowances and other benefits," he pointed out.

As it is, most of the private sector firms do not have that sort of schemes. "Most people prefer to work in the government sector because they obtain allowances, bonuses and other benefits," he added.

Asked when this legisation may become law, the commissioner said he could not be specific on the time as they were still looking at the need for such a law.

Currently private companies wishing to employ foreign labour must apply for a labour quota for a specific number of people and under specific categories of skill. If this application is rejected companies must look within the country to find the necessary skilled professional to fill the post.

Although approximately 46 percent of Brunei's 250,000 population is employed in the civil service the country is facing a degree of unemployment especially among school leavers.

The current status of the number of people out of work stands at 6.3 percent.

Malaysia

Indian Defense Minister Arrives 1 Feb

BK0102042493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The [Indian] defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, arrived in Kuala Lumpur this morning on a four-day official visit to Malaysia. Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports from Kuala Lumpur that the visit, the first ever by an Indian defense minister, is expected to bring about a closer understanding of each other's perception of regional security and cooperation in defense production. Malaysia has been building its Navy on the western coast close to Andaman and Nicobar Islands of late. It has also indicated its desire to have a MiG squadron. Malaysia shares ASEAN's perception that India along with China and Japan have the potential to fill the vacuum in Southeast Asia should the United States reduce its presence following the closure of its bases in the Philippines. These subjects are likely to figure prominently in Mr. Pawar's discussions with the Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir, and the defense minister, Mr. Najib. The two countries are to sign a memorandum of understanding at the end of the discussions. Mr. Pawar told our correspondent that the memorandum is expected to cover cooperation in the fields of defense production and research.

Defense Memorandum Signed

BK0202095093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0917 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 2 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia and India signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to facilitate further cooperation in defence matters. The MOU was signed Tuesday by Defence Minister Najib Razak and his Indian counterpart Sharad Pawar at the ministry and witnessed by top militury brass of the two countries.

Speaking to newsmen later, Najib said the defence ministries of both countries had set up a joint working committee to specify the areas of cooperation under the MOU.

Najib said traditionally India and Malaysia were closely aligned in the field of manpower training.

I think in future, with this MOU, we seek to widen the scope of bilateral cooperation to include joint-venture, joint-development, joint-research, procurements, logistical and maintenance support, he said.

Pawar said in the context of South-South cooperation between Malaysia and India, the MOU could pave the way for a wider cooperation in defence other than training. He said India had spent many years in the research of modern defence technology and was capable of producing a number of defence items.

Najib said Malaysia was open to further discussions on possible joint-production and research depending on the viability and acceptability of the products to both the Malaysian and the Indian armed forces. He said Malaysia had not discussed joint military exercises with India but did not rule out such arrangement in future.

Najib said Malaysia had not decided yet to buy the Russian-made MiG-29 fighter aircraft. Asked whether the MOU would influence Malaysia in purchasing the MiG-29, Najib said: It will take its course. On the possible purchase of the MiG-29 with Indian back-up service through the MOU, Najib said the MOU would certainly cover collaboration in the development of logistical and maintenance and support for aircraft and equipment common to both India and Malaysia.

In his speech, Najib said Malaysia viewed the MOU as an effort to enhance cooperation in technical training and logistics support for the Royal Malaysian Air Force, among others.

Pawar, who arrived here yesterday for a four-day visit, said with the MOU, India and Malaysia could address their common concerns in the security of he region.

Delhi Reports Defense Agreement

BK0202075493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] India and Malaysia have agreed to widen their cooperation in defense, defense production, and research. The defense minister, Mr. Pawar, who is now on an official visit to Malaysia, signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with his Malaysian counterpart, Mr. Najib. Earlier, he had talks with the Malaysian defense minister. The Malaysian defense minister, Mr. Najib, focussed attention on the new era of cooperation provided under MOU relating to technical training and logistic support for the Malaysian Air Force.

Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports from Kuala Lumpur that Malaysia has recently shown interest in having a MiG squadron.

The Indian defense minister, Mr. Pawar, said at the signing ceremony that New Delhi is willing to share its technology and expertise in defense and said there could be possibilities for joint ventures.

Singapore

Development Accords Signed With Indonesia

BK2901143293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Singapore and Indonesia have signed two agreements to develop water resources in Sumatera and an industrial park on Bintan. Under one agreement, water resources in Sumatera's Kampar River basin will tapped for sale to Singapore. It will allow Singapore to [words indistinct] 3 million cubic meters of water from the Kampar basin. The water agreement was signed by Singapore's deputy prime minister, Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, and Indonesia's coordinating minister for the economy, finance, industry, and development, Mr. Radius Prawiro.

Under the second agreement, a 4,000-hectare industrial park will be developed on Bintan. Two memorandums of understanding were signed between the Singapore Technology Industrial Corporation, Jurong Environmental Engineering, and the Salim Group to develop an industrial estate. The Bintan Industrial Estate, BIA, will be developed to produce textile, woodworking, furniture, (?plywood), and plastic products. The estate will offer more than 70,000 square meters of factory space and is expected to provide jobs for 5,700 persons. Construction will begin next month and is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. The agreements were signed at the third Indonesia-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee meeting on economic development of the year.

Gen. Lee told a news briefing that Singapore needs to be aware of competitors and make use of its strength for further development. Only then can it become a competitive alternative to various developing countries in the region. Gen. Lee said investors come here because they like the business environment, the feasibility of (?new) policies, and the lower level of government intervention.

The visiting Indonesian minister, Mr. Prawiro, paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the istana [palace] today. Mr. Prawiro, who is here on a four-day official visit, had earlier called on the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.

Lee Kuan Yew on China-Taiwan Reunification

BK0202095693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] If Taiwan helps China to modernise and industrialise, then both sides will develop a better understanding of each other which will help in reunification talks, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew has said.

"If over the next 10 to 20 years, you are able in strategic areas, to have considerable and widespread people-to-people contact, your managers, investors, skilled workers meeting them, interacting with them, a certain empathy, understanding and realistic assessment of each other will develop naturally," he told CHINA TIMES, a Taiwan newspaper daily. "That will alter perceptions of each other."

He said this when he was asked by chief editor Huang Chao-sung for a formula or guidelines in re-unification negotiations that would overcome the problem of either side losing "face".

"This is why I believe there is advantage in Taiwan helping China to modernise and industrialise," he replied. With greater interaction the problem of "face" might no longer be difficult.

"A sense of reality will prevail on both sides. One of the difficulties at the moment and in the past was the total absence of a sense of reality."

He said he had suggested to late President Chiang Chingkuo in the 1970s and early 80s that it was in Taiwan's interest to allow its people to visit China. But Mr. Chiang was not convinced. Now Taiwan has opened its doors to China "because nothing is better for Taiwanese than a realistic knowledge of the mainland".

Likewise, "nothing is better for mainlanders than to have as many of them, especially important people, visit Taiwan", he added. "They will understand and become realistic."

Part of the interview conducted on December 13 at the Istana [Palace] and published in the CHINA TIMES yesterday was also devoted to the extent to which Taiwan should participate in China's economy.

Mr. Huang raised the concern that Taiwan would be subject to political blackmail if it became too dependent on the Chinese market. Mr. Lee agreed that there was a risk that China would sacrifice its economic interest to achieve its political ends.

The Taiwanese Government, investors and importers would have to decide how much dependence on the mainland, whether as a market or for supplies, would be too dangerous in case it should be suddenly denied Taiwan for political reasons. His own estimate was that 20 per cent of Taiwanese exports for the mainland market would not be too much. He suggested that Taiwanese businessmen take the legal safeguard of investing through companies in countries with investment guarantee agreements, such as the ASEAN countries.

Taiwan, he said in answer to another question, should move "step by step" in its participation in China's modernisation.

For maximum impact, it should choose locations where its investments and influence would be most telling, such as Fujian, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Beijing.

He pointed out that the Taiwanese have areas of specialisation in which Hong Kong investors are not market leaders, such as computers and computer peripherals.

Mr. Lee also warned that China would use force to assert its sovereignty if Taiwan tried to declare independence noting that, at the minimum, the mainland could use submarines to blockade the island.

"America, the West and Japan will not intervene because they have all acknowledged that there is one China and that the mainland and Taiwan are one."

During the interview, he also reiterated that a US-China clash would destabilise East Asian countries and the need to encourage China to become more free-market. He was asked if China's improvement of its armed forces would lead to a change in the balance of power in Asia.

Replying, he said that the quality of Chinese armaments would be dramatically up-graded in five to 10 years given that the break-up of the Soviet Union had unleashed a large supply of sophisticated weapons, arms designers and researchers in Russia. "This is unstoppable because the Russians need cash," he said. But China's ability to project forces across water would be limited as long as the US Seventh Fleet was dominant in the Pacific.

He added that the recent sale of 150 US-made F-16 jets to Taiwan would balance China's increased purchase of Su-27 fighters from Russia. Singapore has not been asked to act as an intermediary between Taiwan and China over the question of reunification, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said. If asked to mediate, it would be evenhanded during the negotiations, he said.

Singapore's stand in the United Nations is that there is one China and that Taiwan and the mainland will have to decide how re-unification will take place.

"We have not been asked to be an intermediary," he told CHINA TIMES.

"If we are asked to be one, then our position must be to be completely fair to both sides. In other words, we cannot support one side against the other during negotiations."

The interviewer, chief editor Huang Chao-sung, said he understood that Taiwan "might have a high-level political contact in Singapore in March or April". He asked "What is the fundamental stand and principle of Singapore as co-ordinator between the two territories?"

Again, Mr. Lee replied that Singapore would be absolutely fair to both sides during negotiations.

Asked if he would be personally involved in the negotiations, he said no, but added that he would know what was going on.

"It is not useful to mediate when the two parties are in direct face-to-face contact. They should talk to each other face-to-face," he added.

Cambodia

30th MMWG Meeting Ends 'Without Success'

BK3001100193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The 30th first-level meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] was held at the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] High Command on the afternoon of 25 January under the chairmanship of UNTAC Military Commander Major General [Maj. Gen.] John Sanderson.

Also attending the meeting were representatives of the commanders of the UN Peacekeeping Force, ambassadors from the embassies of the five major countries in Cambodia, and many UNTAC military officers.

Maj. Gen. John Sanderson informed the meeting of the current complex situation in Cambodia due to military issues, particularly of continued efforts to settle the military conflicts in Battambang and Kompong Thom Provinces. He also recalled the 29th MMWG first-level meeting during which UNTAC put forth a solution to the conflict in Battambang Province proposing UNTAC supervision and deployment in conflicting areas to separate opposing forces from each other.

Concerning the release of officers and soldiers of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] captured by the Khmer Rouge faction recently in Battambang Province, Khmer Rouge representative General Khieu Sophon stressed that he would first bring this matter to his superior for an opinion.

Later, Maj. Gen. John Sanderson authorized Brigadier General (Saladin), UNTAC information officer, to present a report on the situation in Battambang and Kompong Thom Provinces.

To begin the discussion on the agenda of the meeting, Maj. Gen. John Sanderson permitted Khmer Rouge representative Gen. Khieu Sophon to speak first so as to emphasize his faction's stand regarding the settlement of conflicts in Battambang and Kompong Thom Provinces.

In his address at the meeting, Khieu Sophon read a prepared statement which recited his faction's same old theory raising the pretext of the presence of Vietnamese troops, Vietnamese immigrants, and so forth.

Not only has this address by the Khmer Rouge representative failed to resolve the key issue, but it has also created more complex problems because he set forth two more requests—that is, the setting up of a quadripartite police force in all villages, communes, and districts in Battambang Province, and the formation of a quadripartite mixed military group in all districts of this province.

Representatives of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and Khmer People's National

Liberation Front voiced their agreement with the UNTAC-proposed solution to the conflicts and questioned the Khmer Rouge representative on whether his faction would allow three other factions and UNTAC free movement in its controlled zone. But the Khmer Rouge representative responded negatively to this question.

Also on that occasion, Brig. Gen. Mol Roeup spoke on the CPAF's stand, stressing its desire to achieve genuine peace for the people and nation and its willingness to always cooperate with UNTAC. He also stressed CPAF's support for an UNTAC-proposed solution, particularly with regard to the dispatch of UNTAC forces to deploy in conflicting areas so as to separate and supervise the forces from both sides. However, he firmly rejected the Khmer Rouge side's proposal for the establishment of quadripartite police and mixed military forces for supervising villages, communes, districts, and provincial seats in Battambang Province, saying that this proposal was not in line with any point in the agreement, particularly with Article 2 in Annex II. The general also stressed that even if the quadripartite police force were to be established, this would not be within the authority of the MMWG. He added that since an MMWG already exists in Battambang Province, there is no need to set up mixed police and military groups in districts.

The meeting ended without success in resolving the conflicts in Battambang and Kompong Thom Provinces.

Circular Issued on Neutral Political Atmosphere

BK3101085493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Circular of the Cambodian People's Party on the current situation and issues related to a neutral political atmosphere—read by announcer]

[Text] Lately, some circles have raised the question of a neutral political atmosphere as a crucial objective according to public opinion.

They have counted the large and small phenomena of conflicts in society, including some ordinary quarrels and disputes, as being a part of the so-called political terrorism, and have directly or indirectly put the blame on our Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] with the aim of reducing the trust that public opinion both inside and outside the country has had in the CPP and SOC, regarding us as the decisive factor for the process of implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia.

For this reason, the Standing Committee assesses this situation and gives the following advice:

I. During the past more than a year, our SOC side, in addition to making efforts to cope with the all-round situation in almost the entire society and continuously carrying on all-round reforms with a spirit of unity and harmony, has sincerely and patiently implemented the peace agreement and made many concessions to create as many favorable conditions as possible for the success of the agreement and the cause of peace, national reunification, and national reconstruction.

As a matter of fact, in the situation in which the Khmer Rouge faction has refused to implement the agreement and kept violating the agreement, our side has all the reasons to wait until that faction implements the agreement before we do our part proportionally.

However, to achieve the above-mentioned sacred cause and in accord with the request from various parties, our SOC side has implemented several points of the agreement without waiting for that faction. For example, we have agreed to allow and created favorable conditions for various political parties to open their offices and launch activities freely throughout the country. In such a condition, the Khmer Rouge have freely and openly launched legal activities in Phnom Penh in various places that they need to carry out their essential work, and in all provinces and cities. That was why the Khmer Rouge have a chance to launch military violations from the outside and incite political chaos and create unrest from the inside.

As a matter of fact, while the Khmer Rouge have committed gross military violations in the SOC zone, putting pressure on the masses, disrupting voter registration, and even boldly capturing UNTAC personnel, many mysterious incidents have taken place successively in the interior of the country to the point that the offices and officials of various political parties, including our CPP, have been endangered.

In such a gloomy situation, the parties that are allies of the Khmer Rouge and some circles have raised their voices to alarm public opinion, while putting the blame on our SOC without making any investigation or having any evidence. Through this, they have promptly turned public attention from the misery suffered by tens of thousands of our people in the countryside who were killed, pressured, or compelled to desert their villages and farm lands due to Khmer Rouge violations of the neutral political atmosphere.

The Khmer Rouge have gained much benefit from this situation—that is, they have, on the one hand, diverted public attention from their military violations and, on the other hand, created suspicion against the SOC, thus weakening our prestige, our party's status, and its great efforts to maintain a stable situation in the country for implementation of the agreement. Moreover, they have created a dull atmosphere so as to cause mistrust between our party and the other parties.

As a matter of fact, the main strategic scheme of the Khmer Rouge is either to overturn the CPP and SOC or, if this effort fails, to destroy the peace agreement, that is [words indistinct].

II. In the face of this critical situation, it is the common goal and task of the CPP and SOC to be responsible for the fate of the nation and before the international community. That is, we will continue to closely cooperate with UNTAC in order to promote and accomplish implementation of the peace agreement. Whether the Khmer Rouge will take part in the implementation or not, our side will continue to patiently endure and stabilize the situation in all aspects—militarily, politically, economically, and socially. This is because a stable situation is an indispensable condition for holding the upcoming elections.

Concerning the much-propagated neutral political atmosphere, it should be clearly noted that our side has neither incited, supported, nor concealed any abominable acts.

The CPP side vehemently condemns all those acts and shares all the woes of the compatriots—whether they are officials, people from among the masses, members of the CPP and SOC, or officials and members of other political parties—who have fallen victim to such evil acts.

Good cooperation among all the forces in society is presently the most important thing so all can jointly search for facts concerning all the past bad events, strive to maintain security and public order, and together move on toward holding a free and fair election by avoiding groundless charges against one another and an accusation to contaminate the political atmosphere and seek political gains which will only lead to failure in the process to seek peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia and a disaster to the nation if, intentionally or unintentionally, one plays the Khmer Rouge's game.

III. To achieve the above-mentioned common goals and tasks, all sectors at all levels must attentively strive to make the people understand this situation so they can clearly see the good will and splendid efforts we have made, the schemes of the hostile forces, the root cause of the problem, and the danger to the nation, thus jointly striving to safeguard, through work and implementation of the law, the social stability that is essential to the elections. They must not fall for the tricks of the Khmer Rouge but must strive to preserve the prestige of our CPP and SOC while seeking concrete evidence for thwarting all accusations and punishing the wrongdoers.

Whenever an incident takes place at an office or against officials of any political party, including our party, we should closely cooperate with UNTAC in arranging investigations to seek concrete evidence, make proper judgments, and then strive to arrest the offender and his backer so as to expose them in a timely manner.

In cases in which our party is found to have been wrongfully accused of being responsible for an incident, it is imperative to collect concrete evidence, write reports on the matter, and lodge a protest to UNTAC and human rights organizations. In this connection, it is imperative for the provinces, cities, and institutions to set up a joint investigation team made up of a provincial, city, or institutional leader as its head and a number of state authorities attached to courts, police personnel, and some other officials as its members. After conducting an investigation and drawing up charges, it is imperative to send an official to bring such charges directly to the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee.

Upon receiving this circular, all party committees, on behalf of the Central Committee, must arrange for its implementation in a proper manner.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 25 January 1993
[Signed] for the Standing Committee, Chairman Chea Sim

SNC Meeting in Beijing 28 Jan Reported

BK3001054193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Jan 93

["Preliminary report on the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council in Beijing on 28 January 1993"]

[Text] I. According to a preliminary report on the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] with UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] in Beijing on 28 January 1993, there was a struggle between two forces:

A. [Words indistinct] force that wants to hold assembly elections when there is not a neutral political atmosphere, [words indistinct], in a situation in which old and new Yuon [Vietnamese] remain in Cambodia, when Yuon aggressors and their puppets are carrying out terrorist activities to threaten and intimidate the Cambodian people and members of various parties, particularly FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and so on.

This [word indistinct] force wants to hold elections without implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. This means that the SNC does not have a role, does not control the five ministries and does not verify the existence of Yuon aggressor forces, and through this does not demobilize 70 percent of the four parties' armies. On the contrary, (?since) 1992 old Yuon forces have been maintained, while new Yuon forces flow into Cambodia.

This force wants to maintain the Yuon's puppet regime and wants to hold the assembly election to legalize old and new Yuon and allow them to continue their aggression and occupation in Cambodia, and legitimize the Yuon's puppets, allowing them to be masters of the Cambodian people and nation forever.

B. Another force demands holding both assembly and presidential elections. However, assembly or presidential elections should be held in a situation in which there is a neutral political atmosphere, full security, and without the Yuon aggressors' occupation so that the elections are free, democratic, just, and fair.

To enable the elections to proceed freely, democratically, justly, and fairly, the Paris agreement should be correctly implemented, particularly the major clauses—namely a role for the SNC, UNTAC's control of the five ministries, and UNTAC's verification of the withdrawal of old and new Yuon from Cambodia. In other words, only when the SNC has a role and cooperates with UNTAC can conditions be set up for a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia.

II. These two forces fought on 28 January 1993. According to premilinary results available to us, nothing substantial has been decided yet because the two forces and their views are still poles apart, opposed to one another, and are not yet in agreement.

One can summarize the preliminary results as follows: Plan to hold the assembly election at the end of May 1993. Because of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and other forces which demand that the assembly election be held in a neutral political atmosphere, Akashi recognized that the situation is not yet properly organized. The door should be left open for solving the election issue at a later date.

On this issue, the Cambodian nation and people throughout the country and in and outside the country continue to repeatedly demand that:

1. A neutral political atmosphere be set up for holding general elections freely, democratically, fairly, and justly.

2. Concerning the presidential election, Prince Norodom Sihanouk clearly said at the 28 January 1993 meeting in Beijing that he should be careful on this issue and will wait to see how the assembly election proceeds before deciding whether to run in the presidential election. If he discovers that the assembly only serves foreigners, he will not work with it.

The essence of the prince's statement at the 28 January 1993 meeting clearly shows that the situation surrounding the elections is still thorny. Local and foreign observers are well aware of, and clearly understand, the Cambodian situation. They say that old and new Yuon forces remain throughout the country, the Yuon's puppet regime is still in control, terrorism reigns, the SNC has no role whatsoever, and UNTAC does not control the five ministries in accordance with the Paris agreement.

In such a situation observers generally realize that a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia does not exist and that there is no security. The situation remains very thorny. If the problem is not correctly solved, the Cambodian situation will not improve and could even worsen.

The general opinion is that only by implementing the Paris agreement correctly—letting the SNC have a role, UNTAC's taking control of the five ministries, and UNTAC's verifying the Yuon aggressors and demobilizing the four Cambodian parties' armies—can there be a neutral political atmosphere for holding genuinely free and democratic assembly or presidential elections.

Chea Sim Allegedly Remains Vietnam's Puppet

BK3101105293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] A few days ago, the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors ordered Chea Sim, puppet leader, traitor to the nation, and out-and-out lackey of the Yuon, to bark over the radio of the Yuon's puppets to defend the Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia, which are there to protect those in the clique, traitors to the nation. This is because this puppet realizes that if all the Yuon aggressor forces leave Cambodia, the puppet regime would be toppled by the Cambodian people.

The people say that the fact that this puppet leader has banned the Cambodian people from opposing the Yuon and from harboring grudge against the hereditary enemy clearly shows that this Yuon's puppet leader is making efforts to maintain the Yuon aggressor forces in order to prop up the puppet regime from collapsing too soon. This is also in order to allow new Yuon forces to flow into Cambodia.

The people have determined that Chea Sim, Hun Sen, Hor Namhong, Tie Banh, and so on, puppet leaders and traitors to the nation, and the Cambodian People's Party are all lackeys of the Yuon faithfully serving the Yuon's aggressive and expansionist policy.

We already have the Paris agreement, the Supreme National Council [SNC], and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], yet these puppets listen only to the Yuon's orders and have not implemented the Paris agreement:

1. The Yuon and their puppets, with the assistance of some people, have refused the verification of the Yuon aggressors' withdrawal from Cambodia; they have carried out maneuvers to maintain the puppet regime, and through this smokescreen, the Yuon continue to maintain all types of their forces in Cambodia and bring more Yuon nationals to Cambodia with the aim of annexing Cambodia.

2. They have not given any role or right to the SNC; they use the SNC label to legitimize and maintain the Yuon's puppet regime.

3. UNTAC and the SNC have not been allowed to control the five ministries. These five major ministries

are currently still in the hands of the Yuon; no puppet can decide anything in these ministries.

This is why the Cambodian people have clearly determined that the true nature of the puppet leaders and traitors to the nation is that they remain puppets, traitors to the nation, and lackeys of the Yuon; there is no change.

Cambodian history has already inscribed the names of this handful of puppet leaders in the black book saying that Chea Sim has betrayed the nation and the people, sold territory to the Yuon, and colluded with the Yuon to massacre the Cambodian people.

Akashi: Fair Elections To Prevent Civil War

BK3101011293 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 31 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Civil war in Cambodia can be avoided if free and fair legislative elections can be organised for May 23-25, according to United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] chief Yasushi Akashi.

He spoke in Bangkok before leaving for Phnom Penh yesterday.

Some Thai senior military men closely monitoring the situation are worried that civil war in Cambodia is inevitable as long as the Khmer Rouge refuse to take part in the peace process.

"This concerns us a lot and we are pessimistic that the situation will turn explosive soon," said a general, who declined to be named.

He said he doubts the elections will be fair.

But Mr Akashi said Thailand's concern is not "a foregone conclusion".

Should the election be fair the new Cambodian government will be recognised by the international community and it will be difficult for any party "to fight a government with popular support from its people".

He said that as UNTAC chief he still has many things to do to reassure all parties of UNTAC's neutrality to ensure a fair election.

Mr Akashi pledged that UNTAC will ensure freedom of speech and freedom of political activities for all Cambodian factions.

Asked whether he is concerned the Khmer Rouge will disrupt the election Mr Akashi said: "We don't know. We hope not."

The Khmer Rouge claims that Vietnamese forces are still hiding in Cambodia and cite this as the main reason for not joining the peace process, but Mr Akashi said UNTAC's probe reveals no hard evidence to substantiate the claim. The issue is inconclusive and UNTAC is still trying to investigate the issue. He is maintaining dialogue with the Khmer Rouge.

'Savage', 'Cruel' Actions of Khmer Rouge Noted

BK0102062593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "The Moment To Save the Paris Accord Has Become Decisive"]

[Text] The UN Security Council [UNSC] on 30 November 1992 adopted Resolution 792 setting 31 January 1993 as the deadline for the Khmer Rouge to answer whether or not they accept taking part in the Cambodian peace process. January 31 is also the date of the ultimatum issued by the State of Cambodia [SOC] side in its 5 January 1993 declaration. The third point of the statement clearly underlines that after the deadline, if the Khmer Rouge's Party of Democratic Kampuchea continues to deny the Paris accord's implementation and participating in elections according to the agreement's essence, the SOC side proposes that the Khmer Rouge be excluded from the peace process and regarded as outlaw rebels in accordance with their actions.

Until 31 January 1993, what have the Khmer Rouge done to execute the Paris accord that they have signed? Everyone is aware that after the UNSC issued the deadline and after the SOC side issued the ultimatum, the Khmer Rouge continued to be the Khmer Rouge and have not changed in the least. Two months prior to the deadline, the Khmer Rouge not only intensified indiscriminate attacks on the SOC side in Battambang, Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Preah Vihear Provinces, but also insolently and cruelly bullied UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members. During the last two months, the Khmer Rouge made five arrests of UNTAC personnel, including a threat to execute United Nations officials as well. Worst of all, the Khmer Rouge shelled UNTAC's voter-registration office in Svay Leu District and attacked its voter-registration office at Kantreang Commune, Siem Reap District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, killing two UNTAC officials and wounding two civilian UNTAC policemen. Moreover, the Khmer Rouge also committed savage and cruel actions against UNTAC, such as shooting at its planes, intimidating voter-registration teams, and detaining UNTAC officials in their office in Pailin. Along with these military activities, the Khmer Rouge also launched propaganda to discredit UNTAC, accusing it of siding with the SOC, colluding with Vietnam to invade Cambodia, and so on.

That being the case, it can be seen that the deadlock in implementing the second phase of the Paris peace accord has been caused by the sabotage of the Khmer Rouge, who have resorted to violence and cruelty, although the activities are against the Cambodian people's supreme interests, to achieve their ambition and long-term strategy. Their actions show the international community that their signing of the accord is aimed only at destroying the accord itself. However, to circumvent the international community's pressure and to camouflage their violations of the accord, the Khmer Rouge have employed the maneuvers of raising this or that condition to oppose the SOC and UNTAC. The conditions endlessly manifested by the Khmer Rouge are only aimed at weakening the SOC side sincerely executing the accord, bogging down the effectiveness of UNTAC operation in Cambodia, and bringing the operation to failure. They always reap full benefits by means of militarily expanding the territory they control and by abetting the people with their legitimate presence in the SNC. Through this, the Khmer Rouge hope that they would be able to again assume power, undertaking retaliation against the people as they did during their reign of three years, eight months, and 20 days.

In sum, during the 15 months of peace accord implementation and while the Cambodian people, international community, United Nations, and UNTAC were jointly moving toward peace, the Khmer Rouge instead created a new atmosphere of war and trying to turn the parties sincerely effecting the accord into victims. Therefore, we believe that, for the sake of peace and national reunification, the Khmer Rouge's irresponsible, arrogant, and cruel actitivies must be put to an early end. It is a waste of precious time if one continues to assiduously persuade the Khmer Rouge through diplomatic means. On the contrary, the Khmer Rouge will only be emboldened by caresses and persuasion. Their stubbornness can be ended only with stringent measures, such as applying pressure and imposing an embargo on them and ostracizing them.

At present, Resolution 792 should be correctly and effectively enforced, especially Paragraph 5 which aims at counting the Khmer Rouge out of the Cambodian peace process and labelling them as outlaw rebels. In this context, we believe that the Khmer Rouge no longer have any legal or logical rights to stay in the SNC and in the SNC working group. Only by doing so, can the Cambodian people be saved from being the Khmer Rouge's hostages, the Paris accord be preserved, and the failure of the United Nations' massive historic mission in Cambodia be averted. Besides, all signatory countries, especially Cambodia's neighbors, should necessarily and responsibly perform their duties for the sake of the region's peace, stability, and progress. In particular, these countries should join forces to systematically exert influence and pressure on the party that refuses to execute the accord. This is to create a telling force to create favorable conditions for the successful implementation of the Paris accord.

We wish to remind all the Cambodian factions to jointly, simultaneously, and evenly execute the accord's correct and scrupulous implementation according to the schedule. This is no longer a time for arguing and creating new conditions for the purpose of dodging the accord's execution.

UNTAC Accused of Menacing Regional Security

BK0202045993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Station commentary: "If Chiefs of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] Do Not Implement Essential Provisions of the Paris accord, Nothing Can Be Resolved and Problems Will Certainly Become More Complicated"]

[Text] Everyone is well aware that, so far, essential terms of the Paris accord, which aims to allow Cambodia to recover independence and peace and to create a neutral political climate for the Cambodian people to freely exert their genuinely democratic rights of self-determination, have not been implemented in the least. In other words, the following issues have not yet been resolved:

1. The issue of verifying and controlling millions of old Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] invading forces as well as new ones that continue flowing into Cambodia;

2. The issue of the role of the four-party Supreme National Council [SNC], which is the sole legitimate organization and source of power during the transition;

3. The issue of control by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] over the five ministries; and

4. The issue of disarming and demobilizing by 70 percent the four factional armed forces.

These issues are the key to comprehensively implementing the Paris accord. However, for more than one year the UNTAC chiefs and alliances inside and outside UNTAC have dodged and arbitrarily and shamelessly breached these key provisions. They have only raised complimentary issues and acted at will with the aim of preserving both old and new Yuon aggressor forces and the Yuon's fascist regime in all sectors and at all levels. UNTAC has not even controlled the five ministries, which directly affects elections.

What is the purpose of the UNTAC chiefs' actions? The Cambodian people, both inside and outside the country, refer to UNTAC as Yuontac, accusing it of colluding with the Yuon. It is obvious that through their concrete actions, the UNTAC chiefs have opposed and refused to execute the above important clauses. This clearly shows that they came here not to carry out the United Nations mission of restoring independence and peace to the Cambodian nation and people, but to implement the bad alliances' policy of occupying Cambodia in connivance with the Yuon aggressors and in accordance with their respective interests. Nevertheless, the alliances' policy is outclassed by the Yuon's invading and expansionist strategy. In fact:

1. The Yuon's invading and expansionist strategy has been operating for more than 60 years.

2. The Hanoi Yuon, who have occupied Cambodia for 14 years, have millions of old and new Yuon forces in Cambodia. These forces, including members of the Yuon party and mass organizations, are systematically organized under the control of the Yuon Communist Party.

3. The Hanoi Yuon have controlled and fooled the Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim Puppets for 14 years, so it is not easy now to set them free from Yuon domination. Every year, the Hanoi Yuon order their puppets and lackeys to organize a ceremony to pay homage to the Yuon's Indochinese Party. At the commemorations, the Yuon's traitorous puppet leaders and lackeys clamorously and shamelessly shout that the Yuon puppets' Cambodian People's Party is the genesis of the Yuon's Indochinese Party.

To date, the Hanoi Yuon have continued implementing the expansionist strategy of invading and swallowing Cambodia and eradicating the Cambodian race through the occupation of Cambodia with the old and new Yuon forces, and through domination of the country under the aegis of the Phnom Penh puppets. In fact, since the Paris 23 October 1991 accord came into existence, the Yuon's open war has apparently diminished, but the war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia has been given a new appearance in a new situation: Part of the Yuon troops have worn the puppet army or police uniforms while others disguised themselves as civilian Yuon in Cambodia. Along with this, the Hanoi Yuon have also dispatched scores of Yuon nationals to Cambodia. So far, there are two million Yuon, including 1.3 million who hold Cambodian identity cards and who have already registered as voters with UNTAC, in the country.

Given this situation, if the Paris accord's essential provisions are not implemented, can the problem be solved in order to allow Cambodia to regain peace and independence? The answer is no. And nobody can control Cambodia except the Yuon.

That being the case, the Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces have persistently demanded that UNTAC give a role to the SNC, run the five ministries, and verify and control Yuon withdrawal from Cambodia. Anyway, if the UNTAC chiefs continue to commit abuses, dodging the execution of key provisions and forcing the Cambodian people to vote under the fascist regime of Yuon aggressors and puppets, this will further complicate the problem, thereby increasingly straining the situation in Southeast Asia. Consequently, UNTAC will certainly be condemned and accused by the Cambodian people and the peace- and justice-loving countries the world over of conspiring with the Yuon aggressors to again inflame the war in Cambodia, threatening peace and security in Southeast Asia.

Government Troops Launch 'Major Offensive'

BK0102063893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 1 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government armed forces have launched a major offensive on Khmer Rouge positions aimed at capturing territory and taking the guerrilla headquarters at Pailin, the United Nations said Monday.

The offensive is the largest since the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) deployed in the country in March 1992, the U.N. officials said.

The offensive was launched last week, but the scale of fighting increased in the last 72 hours to include nine districts in five Cambodian provinces ranging from the western border with Thailand to eastern provinces bordering Vietnam, U.N. officials said.

Government troops had advanced within 20 kilometers (12 miles) of the Khmer Rouge nominal headquarters in the gem-mining town of Pailin, the U.N. officials said.

The usual dividing line between government and Khmer Rouge-controlled territory is 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Pailin.

The number of troops involved in the fighting was not immediately known, but the battles were causing people to flee their homes in central Kompong Thom Province, U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Dick Palk said.

Casualty figures were not available.

Forces Remain in 'Tense Standoff'

BK0202040193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 93 pp 1,3

[Text] Forces loyal to Phnom Penh and their Khmer Rouge rivals are in a tense standoff some 25 kilometres east of the Khmer Rouge-held town of Pailin, Thai military sources said yesterday.

Forces of the Third Army Division of the State of Cambodia (SOC) and of the Phum Treng-based Division 519 of Democratic Kampuchea (DK) are "looking at each other" from positions on Route No. 10, the sources said.

Route No. 10 links Pailin with the provincial seat of Battambang, which is held by the SOC.

It remained unclear how close to each other the rival forces were positioned. Thai military reports indicated that they were "right next to each other." A diplomatic source in Phnom Penh said they were stationed 10-20 kilometres apart.

There has been no open conflict in the area since last month, the sources said.

The standoff at Pailin is part of what UN officials in Phnom Penh reportedly described as possibly the biggest offensive by the SOC since UNTAC took up the peacekeeping operation in March last year.

The diplomatic source in Phnom Penh said the "very recent" initiative by the SOC to "face" their DK rivals was largely concentrated in Battambang.

Kompong Thom had "always" been a disputed area. Siem Reap, which has been relatively quiet in the past week continued to face "very small accidents." An uncertain situation prevailed in Preah Vihear, the source added.

Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak said he had confidence in Thailand's ability to cope with the impact of any conflict in the area.

"The Thai armed forces are ready to face any situation," he said. At the same time he expressed optimism that the situation would not get out of control.

The SOC offensive came to light after the four Cambodian factions that make up the Supreme National Council (SNC) agreed, during a meeting in Beijing on January 28, to the holding of legislative elections on May 23-25.

The Khmer Rouge have been assured that they can still participate in the elections even though they are under limited UN sanctions for refusing to comply with the Paris peace agreement—notably clauses on disarmament and UN access to their zones.

There is a "tense situation, but no war has begun," the Japanese ambassador to Phnom Penh, Yukio Imagawa, said in a telephone interview.

"I hope both the State of Cambodia and Democratic Kampuchea will refrain from the use of force, from open conflict," the ambassador said.

Japan was represented alongside Thailand, Australia, Indonesia and the five permanent memhers of the UN Security Council at the recent SNC meeting that sought to push forward the peace process in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, a Thai military source firmed up a report from Phnom Penh suggesting that the SOC had been conscripting young Cambodians in Battambang.

According to the report, Cambodian males aged between 16 and 20 were rounded up about six days ago.

The source confirmed that the young Cambodians were seen to have been put on to GMC trucks believed destined for military training.

The report was unable to confirm a figure of 200 people suggested as the total number involved, and was unable to establish that the young men were among refugees who recently went back to Cambodia with the UN.

A relief official said it was yet to be verified that refugees who had gone back with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had been conscripted.

In a related development, a UN official said he did not expect an "influx" of refugees into Thailand as a result of the latest stand-off.

A convoy of 1,268 Cambodians left Thailand for Phnom Penh as scheduled yesterday, he said.

About 1,600 Cambodians have arrived at the Khmer Rouge settlement of Ban Yea Ath, in Banteay Meanchey further north.

By the end of this week about 2,500 Cambodians previously encamped in Thailand will have gone back to the first Khmer Rouge-held village in Cambodia.

KR Claim UN Helped Offensive

BK0202054493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0510 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 2 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] said Tuesday that U.N. peacekeepers had helped the Phnom Penh government launch an offensive against its guerrilla positions.

A faction official at the Khmer Rouge compound here said the attack was aimed at capturing the stronghold of Pailin, despite the government's denial that it would push all the way towards the town.

He said the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had helped the Phnom Penh government, which the Khmer Rouge calls the puppet regime of the Vietnamese because it was installed following a 1978 invasion to oust the faction.

"You can see the puppet government attacked us right in front of UNTAC but UNTAC did not take any action," said the official, who declined to be identified.

"So we think this is the plan to launch an offensive on (us) carried out by the puppet government, the Vietnamese and UNTAC officials to capture Pailin," he said.

"There is nothing new about this offensive because it is the traditional fighting of the puppet government during the dry season," he said. "However the current offensive happened because UNTAC and the puppet government did not implement the peace accords.

Shellings of Pailin Continue

OW0202111393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Bangkok, Feb. 2 KYODO—Phnom Penh government forces continued heavy rocket shellings against Khmer Rouge-controlled areas Tuesday near the guerrilla group's headquarters in Pailin, a report from the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet said.

The shellings, believed to come from BM 21 multibarrel rocket launchers, aimed at a Khmer Rouge stronghold about 30 kilometers east of Pailin along the National Route No. 10 that links Pailin and Battambang.

The stronghold is manned by Battalion 519 of the Khmer Rouge army, said the report, quoting a Khmer Rouge military source at the Thai-Cambodian border.

The shellings began Monday evening and continued "very heavily" Tuesday, the source said. Casualties from the attack were not known.

A Thai military source said Phnom Penh forces also fired mortar shells at a village newly under Khmer Rouge control, at Phum Ye-oak, about 15 kilometers from the Thai border along the National Route No. 5.

The shellings continued more sporadically for the third day Tuesday, the source said. Thousands of newly repatriated refugees from Thailand were settled there last month.

On Monday, United Nations peacekeepers in Phnom Penh said the Phnom Penh Government forces have begun what appeared to be a coordinated offensive against Khmer Rouge positions in several provinces since three days earlier.

Civilian and military spokesmen of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said the fighting was the most serious since the deployment of the U.N. peacekeepers to the country since March last year.

They suggested that the scale of fighting had exceeded what could be called self-defense and indicated an attempt to expand territory.

Last week, Thai Military Spokesman Lt. Gen. Anusorn Krissanaseranee [name as received] told a monthly press conference that signs of a new war strategy were imminent in Cambodia.

He said the Khmer Rouge forces had employed long-range shelling against Phnom Penh Government military positions in several western provinces, but were effectively resisted in counter-attacks that inflicted considerable casualties to the Khmer Rouge.

The Phnom Penh side has generally reinforced its positions both in manpower and arms.

"A new war strategy seems to be in formation. The Khmer Rouge is trying to penetrate into the inner part of the country while the Phnom Penh side is also trying to reach out toward the border areas," the Thai military spokesman said.

On Monday in Phnom Penh, UNTAC sources said there is little possibility the Phnom Penh government's offensive against the Khmer Rouge will escalate.

A military source in the Cambodian capital said the Phnom Penh forces cannot invade Pailin, which is surrounded by thick jungle, with their current military strength.

A western diplomatic source said the Phnom Penh government will not be able to intensify its offensive against the Khmer Rouge, out of fear of the enormous risk of failure.

Japan's Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa aired concern over the incident, saying tensions are high. But he indicated UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi is unlikely to declare the offensive a violation of the peace accord signed by Cambodia's four rival factions in Paris in October 1991.

Imagawa said the Phnom Penh government and the Khmer Rouge are still observing the accord and both sides "would need considerable political courage" to stage a fight clearly infringing the accord.

UNTAC spokesman Eric Belman said fighting has spread to five of the 11 military sectors in Cambodia.

Battambang Said To Face Food Shortage

BK0202101593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] In a number of seasonally inundated areas in Ek Phnum, Sangke, and Battambang districts, the Khmer Rouge prevented the people from harvesting their rice yield. Anyone wanting to harvest had to pay them as contribution three sacks of rice per hectare of the planted land, and the produce had to be sold to them at the lowest prices set by them without taking into consideration any regulations or agreed prices. They also forbade the rice to be shipped to the interior of the districts and anyone found resisting the order would be executed together with his or her family members. The activities made the peasants furious because they have suffered from these actions many times already.

Tit Hean, deputy chief of Battambang Province's agriculture office, reported that in the last rainy season, the province had planted only 143,222 hectares of rice. This represents the lowest rate of planting if compared with the same period of the previous years. As a matter of fact, drought that had lasted in the province from the beginning to the end of the rainy season had damaged 52,036 hectares of rice. Therefore, the total acreage that still can provide yield this year amounts to only 96,285 hectares. And this year's rice yield has also alarmingly decreased.

By 20 January, our peasants had harvested more than 91,285 hectares of rice or 80 percent of the planted land and had received an average yield of 1,118 kg per hectare.

According to the assessment by the Agriculture office deputy chief, 538,085 local people, excluding repatriated refugees, cannot provide themselves with enough food. As such, the situation of food shortage in Battambang Province becomes very worrisome. So in order to cope with the deficiency of food, the provincial People's Committee has urged the provincial Agriculture Office to pay attention to taking necessary measures in order to maintain the livelihood of the people.

Minister on Refusal To Try PDK Fighter

BK0102123793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Interview by Justice Minister UK Bunchhoeun and People's Supreme Court Chairman Chan Sok on 30 January with radio and tv correspondents concerning VOA's accusation against justice minister—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] [Correspondent] "My respects to the justice minister. The VOA reported on the night of 29 and the morning of 30 January that the Justice Ministry of the State of Cambodia [SOC] ordered the Phnom Penh Court not to hear the case of Chan Thoeun, a Khmer Rouge soldier captured by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] for killing 15 people in Ta Cheh, Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chhnang Province. What is your opinion regarding this matter?

[Uk Bunchhoeun] "Here is my answer to your question on this matter. Since the signing of the Paris agreement, my stand has been to respect and abide by the agreement and all the court processess, penal code, and penal procedures of the SNC [Supreme National Council] without any opposition or objection. This is what I would like to make clear."

I would like to explain some special points before answering your question. The UNTAC special prosecutor went to see the judge of Phnom Penh Court and reported to him that this Khmer Rouge element took part in the massacre of 15 people in Ta Cheh village of Kompong Tralach District during an attack on this village in December 1992. No immediate investigation was carried out right after that attack. But, on 13 January 1993, this UNTAC special prosecutor informed our judge that this Chan Thoeun made this confession to UNTAC authorities. The period between December 1992 and 13 January 1993 is quite long. I would like to stress this point. What happened to the offender during that period? No one looked for him; but he himself went to confess to UNTAC that he took part in the murder of 15 people at that village; and it was only on 25 January that UNTAC went to meet him. One point that I would like our lawyers and international lawyers to decide upon is whether this offender was caught in flagrante delicto or not? Article 18 of SNC law states that in case of a flagrant offense, the police may arrest and detain the suspect right away.

Our law on judicial processes states that people's courts must be set up in cities and provinces for trying offences committed within the boundary of their power. In a lawsuit, the people's court concerned must first try to reach a compromise between the parties in dispute. If this attempt fails, that court must bring the case to the prosecutor for indictment. In a special case, the justice minister may authorize a city or provincial people's court to try any case that took place within its boundaries. All of this is stated in our law. Moreover, the SNC law also does not mention the transfer of any offender from one province to be tried by the court of another province. In His Excellency [H.E.] Akashi's advice on the implementation of this law, there is also no mention on the hearing and trying of an offense in one province by the court of another province.

"But, an UNTAC official in charge of human rights requested the judge of Phnom Penh Court to take custody of the offender who was brought from Kampot Province. The offender, Chan Khoeun, who committed that crime in Kompong Chhnang Province, was brought to Phnom Penh for trial by our Phnom Penh court. The judge of Phnom Penh Court also strongly objected to this." He refused to accept this case because the scope of power to try a case is clearly specified in the SOC's law as well as the SNC law. He cannot accept the case nor make any judgment on it because it is stated in law that "the indictment of any offense taking place in a province must be carried out by the court of that province."

Only the Supreme Court has the extensive power to try all cases throughout the country. Municipal and provincial courts do not have such a power. This is clearly stated in the law. We explained that an offense must be tried by the court in the locality where it took place.

"The Phnom Penh Court cannot issue an order for the detention of any offender who committed the offence in another place. But, the UNTAC official in charge of human rights said that the justice minister ordered the Phnom Penh Court judge neither to hear nor try the case of that Khmer Rouge soldier. He said that the Justice Ministry has posed an obstacle to this attempt. I am thus accused. I must say that this accusation is incorrect. This accusation was not made indirectly. It was made directly to me when we met at the office of the justice minister on 28 January. Yesterday, 29 January, he gave a news conference and accused the Justice Ministry of blocking the trial of this Khmer Rouge element. Last night and this morning, the VOA again reported that the Justice Ministry refused to allow the trial of this Khmer Rouge person. I do not rule the judge." I, at the judge's request and as the official in charge of legal policy and judicial proceedings, will explain the legal procedures as defined in law. The judge is independent. I am not commanding him.

At that time, two UNTAC officials tried to make me write a letter to the judge of Phnom Penh Court to issue a warrant for detention of this offender in Phnom Penh. Is this not an attempt to make me go the wrong way? In fact, UNTAC should just detain the offender and then send him for trial by the court in the province where he committed the crime.

[Correspondent] At the same time, Chan Sok, the chairman of the People's Supreme Court, also spoke on the above issue.

[Chan Sok] According to our law, the court of any province is duty-bound to try the offences taking place in that province. Since this case took place in Kompong Chhnang Province, it is within the authority of the Kompong Chhnang court, not the Phnom Penh Court, to carry out the trial.

UNTAC To Continue Holding Murder Suspects

BK0202110493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 2 Feb 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Feb 2 (AFP)—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Tuesday it would continue to detain two murder suspects—including a Khmer Rouge guerrilla—even though their detention without trial may violate the country's penal code.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi and Phnom Penh government Prime Minister Hun Sen met late Tuesday to try to resolve the impasse that resulted when U.N. officials tried to bring the two men to trial last week, but the government refused to let Phnom Penh judges hear their cases.

The government said that the cases had to be tried in the provinces where the crimes took place, but UNTAC officials have said the two men would not get a fair trial outside of Phnom Penh.

"It must be understood...that under no circumstances will the two people currently detained go free without the (government) fulfilling their legal obligations under the Paris agreements to ensure that justice is done," UNTAC spokesman Eric Berman said.

In one case, a government policeman was accused of killing a member of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] opposition party in the southern city of Kampot last month.

A Phnom Penh judge ordered him held for 14 days while an indictment was prepared, but during that period the government decided that the man should be tried in Kampot and would not issue the indictment.

The 14-day period ends Wednesday, after which time the man should be released according to the penal code adopted last year by the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Senior government advisor Khieu Kanharit said Tuesday that the government would hold the trials in Phnom Penh only if the laws are amended to allow it.

"UNTAC is not the 'resident superior' here," he said. "Legally speaking, UNTAC is going a bit far from its mandate."

In the second case, a Khmer Rouge guerrilla was to be charged with the massacre of 15 civilians—including ethnic Vietnamese—which occurred in central Cambodia in December. However, a Phnom Penh judge would not accept even the UNTAC prosecutor's application to remand the suspect in custody while the indictment was prepared. Berman said the refusal was "clearly unacceptable."

It forced UNTAC to hold the guerrilla without charge in technical violation of the penal code.

A Khmer Rouge statement issued Tuesday said the report that a Khmer Rouge guerrilla had deserted and confessed to his role in the massacre was "ridiculous" and "fallacious propaganda."

"UNTAC chiefs together with some foreign medias have repeatedly put up stages to denigrate (us) and looked for all sorts of pretexts, however base they may be, to be used to condemn the Cambodian nation and people," the statement said.

U.N. officials, however, have said they were satisfied that the suspect truly was a deserter from the Khmer Rouge after extensive interviews with him in which he gave details of his unit and confessed to his role in the massacre.

Both men were being held under heavy security at the Ghanaian Battalion headquarters just outside of Phnom Penh, UNTAC said.

Sihanouk Plans Return to Phnom Penh 10 Feb

BK0202140693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] BANGKOK, Feb 2 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), is to return to Phnom Penh from Beijing on February 10 to attend a meeting of the SNC, a senior Thai official said here Tuesday. General Charan Kunlawanit told reporters here the prince would stay overnight in the Thai capital February 9 while en route from Beijing to Phnom Penh.

The Prince, who has been in Beijing for medical treatment, is expected to meet French President Francois Mitterrand in Phnom Penh on February 11 during a scheduled trip there.

Commentary Previews Future Sihanouk Leadership

BK0102014393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Feb 93 p A6

[Commentary by Kawi Chongkitthwon: "The Sihanouk Thais Love To Hate"]

[Text] Lo and behold, when the mercurial Prince Norodom Sihanouk becomes head of the state of Cambodia sometime in the future, Thailand will realize that its Cambodia policy has achieved nothing. On a similar vein Thai leaders will soon find out that the stronger and more popular Sihanouk becomes, the bigger the headache Thailand would have to encounter in dealing with the former monarch.

His interview with FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW last week was very revealing and indeed provided the clue to Sihanouk's latent intention how he would deal with Cambodia's neighbours, especially Thailand and Vietnam.

Sihanouk said that as a powerful president he would act against Thailand, which he said was dominating Cambodia and against Vietnam, which he accused of nibbling away at Cambodian territory.

"The Thai domination of Cambodia at present is monstrous, absolutely awesome," he charged. "It is a general occupation" in areas controlled by all four Cambodian factions.

"I content myself in laughing now, but I await my chance to be the head of state," the prince said. "I am not against the Thais but I'll have to put things in order."

Putting things in order for Sihanouk means standing up against Thailand—something the prince can do very well. It is good that the prince knows what he is up against when he heads Cambodia.

In the minds of Thais, the prince cannot be easily trusted. Not because he changes his mind as quick as he makes it up, but because he is Sihanouk. He is Thailand's real nemesis.

It would [be] hard for Sihanouk to convince the world that he is not against the Thais. He has to as he is the only Cambodian leader that can counter Thailand's influence and defend Cambodia from external enemies, especially the Thais.

In the long history of Thai-Cambodia ties, Thailand had always tried to usurp Cambodia, through annexation or other influences. In most of these forays, Cambodia was helpless. In their contemporary relations, it was Sihanouk who could deal with Thailand.

During Sihanouk's reign, Thailand severed diplomatic ties three times with Cambodia. No Thai diplomats serving in Cambodia at that time recalled any fond memories about the bilateral ties. It was full of hatred, distrust and agony.

The case of Preah Vihear, in which Thailand was defeated in the World Court in 1963, is still at the back of many people's minds. Since then, Sihanouk has been well known in this country for obvious reasons.

The circumstances surrounding the incident at that time were understandable. Sihanouk was a first-class politician, the region's leader recognized by the world, while Thailand was governed by dictators who knew next to nothing about global politics.

When Sihanouk speaks, he speaks from his head, especially on things about Cambodia. His Cambodian nationalism is clearly second to none. The prince loves Cambodia and that is his only obsession, besides himself.

Soon the new chapter on Thai-Cambodian relations will start with Sihanouk at the pinnacle of power. The two countries have to relearn how to coexist, otherwise old behaviours and thoughts would become thorns in their ties.

If anything, Thai leaders are great pretenders when it comes to Sihanouk, the prince they love to hate. They have supported him, not because they are particularly fond of the prince, but simply because he was the only person credible enough to fight against Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia in 1979.

Thailand spearheaded Asean's effort with China's support and succeeded in persuading Sihanouk to head the now defunct coalition Government of Democratic Cambodia.

After almost two decades in exile in two different periods—first between 1970-75 during the era of Lon Nol and later when the Vietnamese ousted the Khmer Rouge in 1979—Sihanouk's long-held dream to rule Cambodia after he returned to Phnom Penh last year, is coming near. When the scheduled May election is over, it is almost certain Sihanouk would become the most powerful person and in fact the cleverest among all leaders in the modern history of Cambodia.

Armed with newly defined power and new-found support, Sihanouk will be tough with Thailand and Vietnam. He cannot afford to do otherwise. Thailand cannot expect Sihanouk to be nice and smiling always. He would be a radiant nationalist appealing to all Cambodians when he talks about efforts to reclaim Cambodia's lost territory. In this case, he does not mean only Vietnam but also Thailand.

The indisputable fact is that the Cambodian conflict has made the Thai-Cambodian border an unrecognizable boundary. Along the 958 kilometres borderline, all but only 15 demarcation posts have stayed intact. With a new government in Cambodia, the issue of redemarcation will the top priority [as published] and certainly will result in new tensions. Looking back, in Thai history there have been no peaceful delineation of borders with neighbouring countries, not to mention Cambodia.

Given Sihanouk's brinkmanship, the prince would press Thailand for an early settlement on redemarcation, especially in several ambiguous areas along Surin and Chanthabun provinces. That would mean using Sihanouk's new found domestic and international support to negotiate with Thailand.

As witnessed in the past, Sihanouk has the ability to turn friends into foes and vice versa in no time at all. And Thailand is no exception.

As a reminder, on October 12 1975, Sihanouk in an interview with LE MONDE in Paris said that while Thailand was a sheep and Cambodia a tiger "The tiger will not eat the sheep." The war in Cambodia since 1979 has contributed much to Thai economy, which has effectively turned the so-called "sheep" into a new tiger.

Soon the Thais will find out how the old tiger copes with the new tiger. There is a Thai saying that two tigers cannot stay in the same cave.

Indonesia

Thai Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Feb

BK0202015593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] Jakarta—Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri arrived here yesterday having heard a reaffirmation of Chinese support for ASEAN's attempt to help break the deadlock in Cambodia.

Squadron Leader Prasong told reporters he had been reassured by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China's support for ASEAN's efforts to reconcile the four Cambodian factions.

Sqn Ldr Prasong met Mr Qichen, who after talks in Vientiane was stopping over on his way to Rangoon, at Don Muang airport for 30 minutes.

Sqn Ldr Prasong is in Indonesia on the first leg of a three-nation tour of ASEAN that will also take him to Brunei and Singapore.

He was met on arrival at Soekarno-Hatta airport by Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas.

Both foreign ministers reaffirmed that ASEAN would keep trying to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the United Nations-brokered peace process in Cambodia.

But Sqn Ldr Prasong stressed that the decision must come from the Khmer Rouge themselves and that ASEAN "does not want to force them to accept the peace plan."

At the same time, he said he was confident that ASEAN would succeed in its efforts under Mr Alatas's leadership.

Mr Alatas reiterated that ASEAN would back Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk as president of Cambodia no matter when the presidential election is held.

"We will support whatever view the prince has," Mr Alatas said.

The prince's latest position, according to an agreement reached in Peking last week is for the presidential election to be held after the May 23-25 legislative elections.

As ASEAN member states, Thailand and Indonesia are seen as key players in the effort to break the Cambodian impasse caused by Khmer Rouge intransigence.

Indonesia co-chairs with France the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) that paved the way for the signing of the peace agreement in Paris in October 1991.

The two foreign ministers hold formal talks here today after meeting in Peking and Bangkok last month in a flurry of diplomatic activity that tried to put the Khmer Rouge back on the peace track.

Today's discussions will also cover the proposal by Malaysia for Thailand and Indonesia to join an economic co-operation project known as the Northern Growth Triangle.

Bilateral trade, including a joint fishing venture, are also on the agenda.

Sqn Ldr Prasong is due to pay a courtesy call on Indonesian president Suharto before having talks with Mr Alatas.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said he planned to discuss Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's planned visit to Indonesia when he meets the Indonesian president.

This afternoon Sqn Ldr Prasong meets ASEAN Secretary-General Ajit Singh when he visits the ASEAN secretariat.

Talks With Suharto, Ali Alatas

BK0202102593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] President Suharto received a courtesy call from the newly appointed Thai foreign minister, Prasong Sunsiri, at the Merdeka Presidential Palace, in Jakarta today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who accompanied his Thai counterpart to the meeting, told newsmen that Minister Prasong also conveyed the Thai prime minister's message to President Suharto on the latter's wish to make a familiarization visit to President Suharto. It is hoped that the Thai prime minister will be able to visit Indonesia after the 1993 People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] session is over. He is not able to make it now because in January, President Suharto has a tight schedule and is busy preparing for the opening of the MPR session in March.

Minister Ali Alatas also said that Foreign Minister Prasong also touched on the outcome of his recent meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed during his meeting with President Suharto. Prasong said he discussed with Mahathir the subregional approach to economic cooperation, especially the northern growth triangle consisting of the northern states of Malaysia, Thailand's southern provinces, and Northern Sumatera.

President Suharto has expressed the hope that a ministerial-level meeting should be held to discuss in detail the proposed Northern Growth Triangle.

At noon today, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his Thai counterpart Prasong Sunsiri are holding talks on bilateral and regional issues at the Foreign Affairs Department in Jakarta. They will also discuss the Cambodian issue.

Reportage on Trial of E. Timor Rebel Leader

Commentary Views Xanana Trial

BK0202042993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The scheduled trial of Xanana Gusmao, East Timor GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] leader began yesterday in the Dili District Court. This means that the government has kept its promise to hold an open judicial process where members of the public can follow and monitor the trial sessions from foreign and domestic media, including RRI. This means that not only East Timorese people, but also people in other provinces can directly follow the trial procedings.

Xanana Gusmao, a Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] leader captured on 20 November 1992, or about one year after the bloody incident in Santa Cruz, Dili, on 12 November 1991, has three lawyers as his defense counsel. The next court sessions will be held by presenting about 30 witnesses.

From what we could see yesterday, we are under the impression that the government has no intention of covering up the entire judiciary process, especially from the international community's scrutiny. As for the East Timorese people themselves, the trial has brought about a sense of relief after being gripped by fear for 16 years due to the activities of the Fretilin GPK which has destroyed their aspiration to integrate with the Republic of Indonesia. People in the 27th province will now be able to pay attention to their development programs and improve their backward conditions as a result of Portuguese colonization for more than four centuries.

If Xanana Gusmao later decides to accept his past mistakes in a gentlemanly manner, this will end Portugal's maneuverings which continue to question the East Timorese people's decision to turn the region into our youngest province. What is obvious is that since Xanana's capture, several organizations affiliated with Fretilin, such as (Fitus), (Pledeste), and (Ojectile) have decided to end their activities while their loyal supporters in the forests have come out and surrendered with their weapons to authorities.

As for the Indonesian Government, holding an open trial shows that Xanana's case is an ordinary one, which is being handled in an ordinary manner as well. The entire judiciary process and charges filed against the defendant are based on existing laws. We would like to show the international community that Indonesia is capable of solving its own internal problems. At the same time, we want to show them that the integration process will produce what is best for the East Timorese people.

Reason for Amnesty Ban Given

BK0202060893 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0515 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Dili, Feb 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—Members of the Amnesty International are not given permit to witness the court trial of Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] leader Xanana Gusmao because their visit to Indonesia was to attend a workshop on human rights, said Suteja Kartawijaya, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, here on Monday.

They requested to attend the Xanana trial only after arriving in Jakarta, whereas their visas issued by the Indonesian Embassy in London were valid only from January 25 to 29 during which the Jakarta workshop on human rights was held, he explained.

Asked by newsmen how to submit a new request to the RI [Republic of Indonesia] Embassy in London to attend the Xanana trial which might take a long time, Suteja said that it was possible. The normal procedure has to be followed, namely sending application to the RI Embassy in London.

As a matter of fact, the court trial was quite open to public, as evident from the presence of both national and international press representatives, even four from the Portuguese press.

It is also attended by embassy staff members of friendly nations, like the first secretary of the U.S. Embassy, Stephen Kelly, and staff of the Australian Embassy Neil Mules, said Suteja.

Legislator Deplores Foreigners' 'Fuss'

BK0202101693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0928 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Dili, East Timor, Feb 2 (ANTARA)—Chief of the East Timor Legislative Assembly (DPRD) Antonio Freitas Parada deplored here Tuesday foreigners trying to make a fuss over Xanana's nationality and his ongoing trial at the Dili district court. "People like Ramos Horta have no rights to comment on the trial of the former East Timor Fretilin Security Disturbing Movement (GPK)," he told ANTARA in an apparent rebuke to those expressing doubt whether Xanana really claimed that he was Indonesian.

Xanana, who led Fretilin against the government for the last 17 years, is now on trial with charges which include ordering attacks on the Indonesian military installations, robbing villages, cooperating with exiled rebels and illegal possession of firearms.

Commenting on Horta, who claimed himself to be the spokesman of the East Timor people, Parada said, "He is a man with no clear nationality. He serves anyone providing him with money."

Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao in the first session of his trial Monday said that his nationality was Indonesian which observers said reflected his recognition of Jakarta authority over East Timor, formerly a Portuguese colony.

Parada said, "It was Xanana himself who told the panel of judges that he was Indonesian. No one forced him to say so."

He said the trial was open to public and the authorities had nothing to hide.

"This is apparent in the decision to let seven Portuguese journalists to cover the trial despite the absence of Jakarta-Lisbon diplomatic relations," he said.

Parada also said that he was ready for interviews with the seven journalists who represented the print and electronic media in Portugal.

Xanana was captured in November last year in Dili in an operation by the local military. The prosecutor in his trial—which observers said might last for more than a month—said that he was also responsible for the November 22, 1991 Dili incident. The incident killed about 51 and injured 90.

Trial Attracts Wide Attention

BK0202121193 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From the "International Report" Program]

[Text] Lawyers defending the captured East Timorese independence leader, Xanana Gusmao, are now finalizing their response to the charges facing their client. Those charges, under the Indonesian criminal code and a separate firearm possession law, could bring the 46-year-old defendant maximum punishment ranging from 20 years in jail to a death sentence. This report from Ian Macintosh in Dili:

[Begin recording] [Macintosh] For the man the prosecutor refer to as Jose Alexandre Gusmao alias Karala Xanana Gusmao alias Xanana returns to the cramped and humid confines of the Dili district court tomorrow, his three-member defense team must complete their so-called (?acceptee). A formal statement to be read to the three trial judges hearing Mr. Gusmao's case will set out the defendant's response to the 40-page prosecution case against him. Xanana Gusmao's chief consul Sudjono is a media-conscious Jakarta lawyer who specializes in criminal and labor cases, is a member of the Indonesian Bar Association, and last year defended one of the young East Timorese tried in Jakarta on charges arising from the events which preceded the November 1991 Dili massacre. Mr. Sudjono denies suggestions that he was chosen by Xanana Gusmao's captors to represent their VIP prisoner, saying he met the defendant on four occasions over the past month and Mr. Gusmao asked him to take the case. He won't discuss courtroom tactics ahead of tomorrow's presentation nor will he [word indistinct] his client's chances of beating the serious charges he is facing.

[Sudjono] [word indistinct] this message is not true.

[Macintosh] Are you optimistic about the trial?

[Sudjono] Optimistic because of my experience. I will try my best. I will do my best.

[Macintosh] Indonesians [words indistinct] people of Dutch colonial past, these trials must be held in public unless they involve morals charges or juvenile defendants. Jakarta's case against Xanana Gusmao is very public and Barrister Sudjono's (?acceptee) tomorrow is certain to attract another packed gallery. Spectators not able to enter the court are able to follow proceedings via loudspeakers outside the well-guarded building. There will be a large crowd inside and out in exchanges like this. [court chairman, speaking in colloquial Indonesian] Court chairman, Judge Hieronymus Godang, in formally establishing the defendant's identity, asked Xanana Gusmao his nationality. A wily guerrilla leader who evaded Jakarta's troops for almost 17 years in the hope of ousting Indonesia from East Timor, quietly replied through a Portuguese-speaking interpreter that he was Indonesian. As with the television appearances which followed his capture last November, Mr. Gusmao [words indistinct] and he conceded Indonesian sovereignty over his homeland. The voluminous prosecution case against him, two months in the preparation, (?revealed) an extraordinary amount of details about the armed struggle waged against Jakarta's rule by Xanana Gusmao and his Fretilin colleagues after the Indonesian annexation of East Timor in 1976. Some observers noted however, that the defendant was not accused of specific acts of violence, instead being linked with the Timorese pro-independence campaign by dint of his leadership of it and association with others allegedly involved. The case, which court and defense officials agree could run for at least two months and despite the routine its tense atmosphere which pervaded yesterday's sitting, it is also a case capable of producing plenty of surprises before Xanana Gusmao's besieged fate is determined. [end recording]

Australian Envoy on Troops in Timor

BK0202034893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Australia's departing ambassador to Jakarta, Philip Flood, says Indonesian leaders have been told Australia would welcome a reduction of troop numbers in East Timor. Mr. Flood finishes his four-year posting to Indonesia tomorrow.

He made his remarks soon after the trial of East Timorese independence leader, Xanana Gusmao, began in Dili, from where Ian Mackintosh reports:

[Begin Macintosh recording] Mr. Flood told reporters in Jakarta that during farewell calls on President Suharto and senior cabinet ministers, he had been advised Indonesia intended to reduce both its total forces in East Timor and the number of combat troops stationed in the province.

He said he had been informed the cutback was expected to begin in April, but its precise timing and other details were still being worked out. Mr. Flood said he in turn told his hosts Australia would welcome such a reduction. For more than six months, Indonesian officials have been foreshadowing troop cuts in East Timor as well as a change in the status of the local military command.

Current forces in the former Portuguese colony are estimated by some analysts to number close to 10,000, while opponents of Indonesian rule have claimed the figure is twice that. [end recording]

Businessmen Close Deal To Rescue Troubled Bank

BK2701112093 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 16 Jan 93 p 1

[By Frits Pangemanan]

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Timber baron Prajogo Pangestu, his associates and a three-bank consortium finally closed a deal last night to purchase 100 million PT [Company Limited] Astra International shares and rescue the funds of Bank Summa's depositors.

The deal was completed in a three-hour meeting at the headquarters of Bank Indonesia, the central bank, involving Prajogo, his associates, Bank Danamon, the Indonesian Development Bank (Bapindo), Bank Ekspor Impor Indonesia, and representatives of the Suryajaya family, the founders of Astra and Bank Summa, which is currently undergoing liquidation.

Agreement during the meeting chaired by central bank director Hendro Budianto and senior lawyer A. Latief, Prajogo and his associates signed an agreement for the purchase of 46 million shares from the bank's liquidation team and another for the purchase of 29 million shares from the consortium of the three banks. The consortium then signed an agreement with the Suryajayas for the purchase of 25 million shares.

All the 100 million shares were purchased at Rp [rupiah] 10,000 each, above the Rp 9,000 price quoted on the Jakarta Stock Exchange yesterday.

"All the transactions will be officially registered at the Jakarta Stock Exchange on Monday," Hendro said.

He recited the roster of the purchasing parties. Prajogo's company, PT Delta Mustika, will take 15 million of the Astra shares, Henry Pribadi 14 million, PT Bogasari Flour Mill 10 million and Murdaya PT 10 million.

The other 36 million shares are taken by PT Sinar Mas Tunggal, PT Sutratex Citra Sejati, PT Anugerah Daya Laksana, Hendra Rahardja, PT Dharmala Sakti Sejahtera, PT Empu Sahid Holding International, PT Lyman Investindo Company, PT Sandang Rakyat Textile (Sandratex), PT Gajah Tunggal Mulya, PT Lippo Bank Ibrahim Risyad and Sudwikatmono.

Bapindo would take 10 million shares, Bank Ekspor Impor 10 million and Bank Danamon five million shares he said.

"The shares transactions mark the repayment of the Suryajayas' debt to Bapindo, Bank Ekspor Impor and Bank Danamon," Hendro said.

The Suryajayas put up 100 million Astra shares as collateral in 1991 for their debt of Rp 500 billion. The money was used to strengthen Bank Summa's financial position after it suffered a deficit in the previous year.

Astra has 242.19 million shares in total. Its shareholders include the investing public, holding 33 million shares, the International Finance Corporation with 13.03 million, PT Danareksa with 26 million, Bank Dagang Negara with 20 million, cooperatives with 2.5 million and T.P. Rachmat holding 4 million.

Prajogo said last night that the main objective of the share purchases was to help the liquidation team fund Bank Summa's obligations to its depositors and employees.

"Our mission is to help provide payments for Bank Summa's employees and depositors," he told reporters after the signing of the share transactions.

George Kapitan, the head of Bank Summa's liquidation team, told representatives of the bank's depositors at the headquarters of Bank Summa earlier yesterday that the team was committed to reimbursing the depositors and the bank staff.

"We are still discussing with the Ministry of Manpower on the amount of compensation that we have to provide for the bank's employees," he said.

According to Kapitan the team had not been able to determine the exact schedule of repayments to the bank's depositors, since all matters related to its assets and liabilities were still under examination. He said the liquidation team was now formulating the balance report of all the debts and liabilities of the insolvent bank.

"We hope the formulation of the report will be completed by next week," Kapitan said.

After completing the balance report, the team would verify the claims submitted by depositors, he said, adding that the verification process would take a long time.

Efforts To Save Bank Viewed

BK2901071593 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Sale of Suryajaya Family Shares"]

[Text] The sale of PT Astra International shares, owned by William Suryajaya, was conducted. The 100 million shares valued at 10,000 rupiah per unit are currently owned by three financial institutions and some industries. The shares were mostly bought by renowned and established major industries.

At first, 46 million out of the 100 million PT Astra shares, which were mortgaged to financial institutions, were returned to William Suryajaya's family. Thus, the debt with these financial institutions was settled through the remaining 54 million shares. Then, the returned 46 million shares were resold to a number of major industries in a transaction through the Bank of Indonesia. These industries also purchased another 29 million shares owned by financial institutions, which resulted in the industries acquisition of 75 million PT Astra shares. It has been acknowledged that some 20 million shares with the Toyota Motor Company are still waiting to be transacted.

Thus, the Suryajaya family's holding of the majority of PT Astra International Incorporated shares ended after pioneering its establishment in the 1960s. There is, however, a possibility that the Suryajaya family could repurchase the PT Astra shares from the major industries. The industries had previously agreed to resell the shares to the family if it was ready to purchase them. Such a possibility has yet to be seen.

The returns from the sale of the 46 million shares, amounting to a total sum of 460 billion rupiah, could be utilized toward clearing up former Bank Summa's obligations. The former bank's total obligations amounts to about 800 billion rupiah. Therefore, following the sale of the 46 million shares, the remaining amount could be obtained from the sale of the bank's assets. These assets had been recently liquidated. But the issue of repayment to the government, its partners, and former employees still remains.

The Bank Summa issue, which led to the sale of shares owned by PT Astra International Incorporated, is an incident related to an age-old financial problem—an unavoidable human problem. The amount "involved" in the incident—a major portion of the money—was not siphoned off from consumers. Most of the money involved was from the owner's capital.

The problem concerning PT Astra shares and the former Bank Summa's debts to other sectors, however, is still unsolved. An exception is the money needed to repay wages to about 2,250 former Bank Summa employees. This brings us to the source of financial allocation in funding our banking sector's capital—besides the banks having their own capital sums. We are trying to solve the Indonesian banking sphere's major problems, including problems faced by state-owned banks. The banks also face difficulties in recovering credit facilities. The recovery of credit facilities would ensure sufficiency of their capital sums. The credit facilities, which were extended, if accumulatively accounted for, would run up to a myriad of billions of rupiah.

From time to time, we often hear of the banks' inability to solve the huge industries' request for postponement and rescheduling [preceding word in English] of their enormous debts. We know of major industries' inability to repay their credit obligations as scheduled to the banks.

This indicates that major industries, which conduct their business through the huge credit facilities afforded by the banks, were not good paymasters as expected. The fact is that they were unable to repay their dues on time as agreed. Such incidents have been continuous in the recent two to three years and currently the situation remains unchanged.

One aspect concerning last week's sale and purchase of the Suryajaya family's PT Astra shares at Bank of Indonesia indicates the Indonesian business sphere's capability and robust stance. There was a "need" to close the 75-billion rupiah shares deal. Thus, it could be acknowledged that the transaction was rapidly concluded.

An indication that the business world is facing numerous problems in conducting their business is seen in the problems facing the banking sector.

But whatever public opinion may be concerning the above shares transaction, it is clear that the Bank Summa issue will finally be resolved. The solution to the problem is much needed because if it is allowed to linger on, it would then affect the concentration of industries and their performance.

There are many lessons that we can and should learn from such an issue. It is hoped that with the take-over of PT Astra International Incorporated from the Suryajaya family by the new owners will eliminate all mistrust and provide fresh opportunities to strengthen the position of the automotive industry.

Laos

PRC's Qian Qichen Views Ties, Cambodia

BK0202033993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] On 31 January, Qian Qichen, PRC state councillor and foreign minister, gave an interview to Lao media on the friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by the PRC Government delegation.

Qian Qichen said: China and Laos are neighboring countries who share a common border. The peoples of the two countries have maintained relations as well as traditions of mutual cooperation and assistance since ancient times. Particularly in the past few years, relations between the two countries have seen new developments. Leaders from both countries at all levels have exchanged visits. Presently, the situations in the two countries are changing along with the world situation. Leaders of the two countries have frequently exchanged visits and developed contacts with a view to further promoting mutual understanding between the two countries. I believe that under the new atmosphere, strengthening friendly relations between the two countries conforms to the aspirations and interests of the Chinese and Lao peoples and is beneficial to the stability and peace of the region. This development shows that the two countries—China and Laos—are both building socialism in accordance with the actual conditions and realities in each country. The two countries are implementing similar reform and open-door policies and are pleased to develop relations with all countries in the world and are willing to make contributions to building peace and stability in the region. Therefore, strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries should not be obstructed by anyone.

During the interview, the Chinese foreign minister pointed out the significance of the successful border demarcation of the two countries, aimed at building the border into an area of peace, friendship, tranquility, and mutual cooperation. This success sets a good example for other countries in the world.

Regarding the broadening of relations and cooperation between the two countries in the future, Qian Qichen believes such development has a fine and ample future. Political relations between the two countries are at a good level without any remaining problems. In the economic field, the two countries have rendered extensive cooperation and assistance to each other. This means that the two countries possess potential in economic cooperation. If one were to ask what difficulty remains in economic cooperation between the two countries, I would say it is in the communications and transport sector. Nonetheless, we have already begun efforts to rectify this difficulty. For example, we have opened (?reciprocal) air routes, utilized the Mekong River as a means of developing waterway transport services, and opened border crossing points for land contacts. This has facilitated the exchange of visits and trade.

During the visit by the PRC Government delegation, the two sides also signed an agreement on investment protection as a legal safeguard for mutual cooperation between the two sides in various forms and at various levels. The minister expressed hope that the Chinese and Lao Governments will promote and encourage various business enterprises in the two countries to increase bilateral cooperation in an even more effective manner.

Discussing the current world situation, the Chinese minister noted that while the new (?wheel) is replacing the old one, the world situation has become chaotic and is changing extensively. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation in which the two (?polar poles) used to exist has changed. Unrest has prevailed in many regions to the point where regional armed conflicts have developed. Under this situation, hegenomism and superpowerism still remain. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen regards creating the new world order as a different thing from the old order in which hegemonism and superpowerism were the focal point. Under the new world order, all countries—big or small—are equal and must respect and refrain from interfering in one another's internal affairs. Our world will become a prosperous world, rich with many things. Therefore, the world should not possess only one single system, attitude, or value. Bilateral exchanges and cooperation should be promoted, and all acts of coercion must be avoided because they are illogical. He regarded that under the new world order, all countries have the freedom and right to choose any path for their own development. Countries must respect and exchange lessons with one another, but must not interfere in the internal affairs of or use force to threaten other countries.

Regarding the Cambodian issue, the PRC foreign minister shared a similar view with the LPDR which is interested in the situation in that country. China and Laos were signatories to the Paris agreement in October 1991, but it is deplorable that the process of implementing the agreement has run into difficulties. China's stand remains in support of all Cambodian factions to attain national reconciliation. If this cannot be achieved, efforts must be made to avoid the flare-up of a new civil war. If such an undesirable phenomenon should occur, adverse effects will be created on the stability and peace in this region as well as on the Cambodian people. China's stand is to support any proposals that are conducive to national reconciliation in Cambodia. China will make every effort to encourage the four Cambodian factions to attain national reconciliation and will not support any Cambodian faction in fighting a civil war.

Minister Discusses Justice Work in Society

BK2801114393 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Manisai, entitled: "Justice Work and Current Social Problems"]

[Text] The justice sector plays a very important role in the polular democratic regime because it guarantees the legitimate rights and interests of the entire multiethnic people in Lao society, thereby ensuring genuine justice and equality for all as provided by the laws.

Justice Minister Kham-ouan Boupha pointed out that the justice sector in the recent past has effectively carried out its tasks. Firstly, it has contributed to drafting the Constitution for the Lao People's Democratic Republic as well as the Criminal Code, the Civil Code, the Ownership Law, and other laws. Secondly, it has set up a sound justice system in our country, such as by establishing and improving local justice mechanisms, including the provincial and district courts. Thirdly, it has provided training to more justice cadres by setting up an intermediate-level law school. It also plans to set up an advanced law school in 1993.

However, Minister Kham-ouan Boupha pointed out that while scoring brilliant achievements in some areas, the justice sector is still plagued with many weak spots and problems that must be rectified. For example, a number of justice cadres still fail to profoundly appreciate and grasp the essense, spirit, and objectives of certain laws, thereby preventing them from explaining those legal documents in profound detail to the general public, especially in remote areas. People in certain localities remain ignorant in abiding by certain laws despite the fact that these penal codes have been enforced for a few years already. Therefore, it is necessary that we do something to allow the people to understand all laws. This is one of our weak points. Even though we have enacted many laws for enforcement so far, they still remain inadequate. Some laws were passed and put into practice before the promulgation of the Constitution. As a result, certain articles in these laws are incompatible with some clauses in the Constitution. Therefore, there is a need to rectify all these problems.

All laws must be compatible with the fine customs and traditions practiced by the multiethnic people in our country. For example, most lowland Lao people who are Buddhists always adhere to the five-point teachings of Buddhism. If they strictly practice these principles, they must refrain from lying and stealing. Therefore, we must further uphold and promote all fine traditions and customs of our nation. All laws are enacted with the intention of guiding all people to do good, not bad. All existing laws have been designed to encourage our people to execute the two strategic tasks, that is to defend our country from foreign aggression and colonialists and to build it into a country with lasting peace, independence, sovereignty, and prosperity. All laws are enacted for enforcement and must be respected by everyone.

Another weak point in our justice work is that the number of justice personnel still remains very low. Their quality also remains inadequate. In theory, justice personnel must possess two qualifications: First, they must have a clean reputation; second, they must maintain a sense of justice. Therefore, it is necessary that we pay closer attention to simultaneously training more justice personnel and raising their quality to a higher level.

Philippines

Radio Interviews Rebel Leader Honasan

HK0102100493 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Interview with former Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan, leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union, by Joe Taruc on the "Straight from the Shoulder" program at the Manila Broadcasting Company studio in Manila—live; monitored in progress; passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] [Taruc] Let us continue with our interview with Gringo Honasan. Greg, I'm sure that you are aware that talks between the National Unification Commission [NUC] and General Zumel's group have begun. Is there a difference between your group and General Zumel's?

[Honasan] There is no difference. In fact, Joe, we consider General Zumel and his men our allies. It just so happens that they want to discuss some less pressing, yet still relevant issues.

[Taruc] Your group's and General Zumel's talking points are almost the same; they only differ in the priority given to each talking point?

[Honasan] Not necessarily. Originally, we had the return of former President Marcos' remains to the country as one of our eight talking points. We have now passed this issue on to General Zumel's group.

We consider it immaterial if there is a duplication in talking points. It is also irrelevant should we have the same or different discussions [with the NUC]. However, if we are going to discuss long-term peace, it is important that all armed groups, our brothers in the different movements, be involved in the talks. This is why we are disappointed with the fact that only a few have joined the peace process. It seems that the NUC still has to overcome some obstacles in order that talks with the revolutionary left and the secessionist movement may push through. However, we are optimistic that the day will come when the issue of the peace talks' format and venue will become immaterial and we can all sit down to negotiations all at the same time.

[Taruc] /In other words,/ your group does not mind having the so-called leftist and secessionist rebels with you at the negotiating table?

[Honasan] What we have here, Joe, are problems of national unity and survival. There are no leftists, rightists or /centrists/ here when we talk of these problems. /We are talking about survival as a people. There cannot possibly be any demarcation line or imaginary division that should continue to polarize or divide us as a people./ We are talking about unity here. The oneness that we need in order to achieve development.

[Taruc] In your talks with the government's representatives, what would you consider to be a favorable outcome of these talks? Have you thought of ways to implement those points agreed upon during the talks?

[Honasan] As I said earlier, Joe, this would be a result of the peace process. We have divided our talking points into two basic areas: Those that we call /doable/, those that may be concretized and immediately implemented by the government....

[Taruc, interrupting] That will no longer need legislation...

[Honasan, interrupting] Actually, that's another problem. With the many laws that we have—do not be surprised with what I am about to say because I heard this first on your program—how many of them have been effectively, consistently, and uniformly implemented? We cannot even begin to talk about the small flaws in our Constitution which were clearly evident during the past elections. So this may be one. Aside from this legislative gesture, the government can also present the people with a plan to solve the energy crisis which they can understand. The government may present some plans or take concrete steps to prove that there is indeed justice in the country and that justice between the poor and the rich, between those in the private and government sectors are the same. Maybe they should begin by arresting all those so-called big fish [prominent criminals]. The government should exert more effort.

In the long term, the issues of land reform, human rights and even the issue of the energy crisis, which has a number of long-term implications, will arise. So there are many things that need to be implemented. And in our opinion, these things will become clearer as the peace process progresses because both sides will thresh out these problems, if indeed we are in the right caucus.

[Taruc] Greg, discussing the problems and agreeing on the solutions are easy, but what assurances do we have that the solutions agreed upon will be implemented?

[Honasan] When Chairperson Haydee Yorac and I first talked, we said the most important component of this peace process is the informal consultations. On the side of those joining the peace talks, this will be a leap of faith. They are joining out of trust. For the government, it is more difficult because it has a greater distance to go, precisely because it is the government. It is the government's responsibility. The people installed that government in order that it might lead and govern the nation. And that is precisely what we are waiting for them to do. So it would be a good move on the government's part to tell the people of their promise or promises so that the people can monitor their long-term implementation and determine for themselves whether the government is sincere or not. But we are also realistic, /in the sense/ that we do not expect these reforms to occur overnight. Maybe what the masses are expecting is a little bit more action, a little less politicking and a little less futile discussion.

[Taruc] Greg, you may have heard that there have been some negative reactions to your discussions with the NUC, those questioning why the NUC is talking to you and what is to be done about your past offenses. What is your response to these negative reactions?

[Honasan] Joe, when we begin asking who is responsible, we begin to place blame. If we always ask who is to blame, this peace process will never progress.

The question of what offense are we going to be held liable for is, I guess, one of the questions which some people in the government may be asking right now. Let us not go into the so-called criminal investigation procedure which should be the case here. If they accuse us of using force and inflicting hardships on the people, we can also ask them who will take the blame for the hardships caused by poverty, starvation, politicking, the lack of direction, the energy crisis, the water crisis, the dilapidated roads, the garbage problem, and the environmental degradation which our country is now experiencing. Who will be responsible for these hardships? Now, if we believe that justice should be applied equally, then this question must also be given attention.

Now going back to the original question. We should not always ask who is responsible, rather we should ask why. Why did these things happen and why do they continue to happen? I think that these should be the focus of the peace process if we want it to move forward and go in the direction which it is supposed to take.

[Taruc] Former President Cory Aquino has given a reaction regarding the peace process. She said she hopes that what the Ramos administration is doing is reconciliation with justice. What is your reaction to this?

[Honasan] We have already mentioned earlier, Joe, when we say justice, justice is a statement just like unity and democracy. When we say justice, how can we give life to or /operationalize/ justice. There is a procedure. If they say there was violence in 1987 and 1989, I believe that our view is not that shallow. Let us get back to 1986 and the so-called violence that occurred then. Let us go back to the years before 1986. Was a just procedure applied then? In my opinion, what I feel is that our administration has no right to impose justice because they were not able to let justice prevail when they were in power. We might have been enlightened now since the new government after the previous one must be better. Add, too, what I mentioned earlier, that President Fidel V. Ramos in the past served the military. I think he knows all our problems.

[Taruc] We know that you are extremely careful, Greg, in your group. Before making any decision, you can be sure that it was thoroughly studied. Not that we are being pessimistic, in case the peace process fails, what scenario does your group foresee?

[Honasan] Joe, before I directly answer that question, we need to develop a peace constituency, a consensus among our people in order for them to desire peace. We must want peace so bad and we must convey this message very clearly to all, especially the government—that we demand peace. The peace process must not fail. What is at stake here is not only the government's sake, not only the welfare of our group, but also the people's good. Despite the fact that we are leading the peace talks, that we were ahead of the government in proposing a summit, that we may have been ahead in laying out talking points, there still existed intrigue or bad faith. What can we do? That is what I will ask the people. What must we do? Tell us.

[Taruc] Okay. Let us talk about the major problems, Greg, particularly peace and order as well as kidnap-for-ransom. It was even reported that you were being offered a position in the Presidential Anticrime Commission headed by Vice President Erap Estrada. Is this true?

[Honasan] Joe, there was no formal meeting between me and my comrade Vice President Estrada. But, first of all, we believe in his capability. We believe in his ability and vision regarding this problem. Probably, he is not being given enough support at present, but we have great confidence in him. Now, if our help will be needed as a result of the peace talks, why not? We are willing to help in any way.

You mentioned the peace and order problem. We believe that this has resulted from years of mismanagement, lack of direction and, maybe, coordination. We would not like to hold the government, police and the military responsible for all that is happening today. We must accept that this problem could not have happened overnight. I mentioned earlier that there might be short-term, medium-term, and long-term solutions for this. Probably, what is now happening to the Philippine National Police and the military is just a mirror image of what is happening to society in general.

[Taruc] In the case of big crimes such as kidnap-for-ransom, bank robberies where police and military are usually involved, considering your extensive experience with the military, Greg, what might be the reason why this happened to the military establishment?

[Honasan] Maybe, Joe, this may also be related to the question: Why is there rampant and serious criminality at present? Maybe for simple citizens who are hungry and poor and are disturbed by everyday hardships, I feel, believe they see no difference any more between living and dying. So why not take the risk?

I think the second aspect is that we might not see a clear and firm example of the problem. Let us talk about corruption in the government. It seems that nothing favorable is happening in investigating and preventing the problem. Thus, the people, the police and the military say that our leaders are not determined to solve on their level corruption and criminality. Who are we, then, to be strong in that aspect. What I am saying, Joe, is that this is not a reason. There is no reason for our police and military not to fulfill their duties. There is no reason. However, if we study carefully the root cause of all this, we might need to deepen and widen our investigation. Thus, we will learn that the police and the military also have families. What do we ask of them, now? To sacrifice their lives in order to take care of peace. Now, does what we ask from them compromise with the benefits that their families may receive when they die? Can we say that it is worth dying for? I am not defending some of them. I repeat, there is no reason, there is no excuse for failure to do your duty. But what are the root causes of the problem? Is it these people alone? It is true that there is a deterioration of values. What about the civil service system? Does it give concern for the so-called small things that we do not usually see? Have we treated our soldiers and police as one sector in our society that also has feelings? Who also experience hardships? Yes, we do not allow these people to engage in partisan politics, especially during elections. But if we talk about them as an important sector in society, that their duty is to take care of peace and order, isn't it the case that we must be concerned about this?

[Taruc] Greg, one of the major problems of the country is the energy crisis. Ordinary citizens ask how the peace process will help solve the problem of the energy crisis.

[Honasan] Maybe, Joe, what will happen here is if the peace process will discuss the basic issues, we can specify issues to prioritize. The energy problem is included here. What is surprising here is that we have reached a point where whatever we do will be a good step toward the solution to the energy problem. However, more issues can be discussed, such as the issue involved regarding the purchase of portable generators. Based on consultations we had with several experts, they say that portable generators are not suitable solutions. When power outages occur and when we start using a generator, experts say the exhaust of leaded fuel causes toxic waste that affects the Metro Manila atmosphere. It was mentioned the other day that Makati is the most polluted area in the National Capital Region. The experts also mentioned that before the Aquino government, we were 50-percent dependent on foreign energy sources. Now, we are 80-percent dependent. It is too ambitious for us to say that we can solve the problem in the soonest time. The Middle East crisis might erupt once more, which may cause more problems for us.

[Taruc] It is 0814. Friends, you are listening to the "Straight from the Shoulder" program of Louie Beltran and we are interviewing Colonel Gregorio Honasan. Greg, I would like to bring back our discussions to the time you were in hiding. Many of our countrymen are puzzled. After so many years, although a big reward was offered to those who could provide information about your whereabouts, P5 million [Philippine pesos] if we are not mistaken, nobody gave information about where you were. What could be the reason for that? Perhaps now we can talk about that.

[Honasan] Perhaps, Joe, we can attribute this to the fact that many protected us, both within and outside our sector. A big factor is faith and, of course, luck. What is more important is that what happened benefited us—although it was difficult—because we learned to understand ourselves, our comrades, the citizens. We felt their heartbeat and their pulse. We also discovered the feelings of the so-called silent majority. And we understood more deeply our continued dream and struggle.

[Taruc] Was the figure correct—P5 million for you?

[Honasan] The word that reached us was that it was the official figure. Because of the many interest groups who hated us and what we were doing, we heard that many private institutions put up their own rewards.

[Taruc] Which reached P25 million.

[Honasan] That was very flattering. Heartwarming. Perhaps this is due to the lack of awareness about what we were doing.

[Taruc] Could that be because you have a lot of contacts within the military establishment?

[Honasan] Well, our strength remains. They still do not know how many we are, who we are, and where we are. We are telling those who have inquired that our movement is different because our forces are still receiving pay from the government because they are within the various branches of government. This is a big thing to...

[Taruc, interrupting] Greg, when you visited the province of Cagayan with Congressman [Juan Ponce] Enrile, the welcome given to you by the people was not ordinary if you use as a basis the visits of politicians in that area. What was on your mind at that time?

[Honasan] In truth, Joe, I was just lucky, because at times our problem was transportation in going to remote places, the rural areas, to implement the so-called consultations as part of the peace process. But let's go back to your question. Perhaps this was due not to me and my capability, but to curiosity because I have long been away from the public eye. Second, in my own reading, Congressman Enrile was popular in his area.

[Taruc] When we interviewed Congressman Enrile, he said that if Gringo decides to enter politics, I would support him if he did not run for the position I was running for.

[Honasan] Perhaps this was due to the pleasure that Congressman Enrile felt when we finally met after a long time. It is no secret to many that our relationship is personal. I consider Congressmen Enrile a surrogate father. This is where our similarities end. Our dreams for the country may be the same, but we differ in our approaches. I think we should not influence each other regarding this because we have deep beliefs about our own approaches.

[Taruc] We know that the peace process is not yet over; in fact it has not even started. May we know if entering the field of politics crossed your mind.

[Honasan] Actually, Joe, this should be the result of the comprehensive peace process, because No. 2 among our talking points is electoral reforms. So if we are more confident that elections have become fair, where the qualified and competent could win—not necessarily me—even if they do not have the traditional resources, we may enter politics as a movement or as allies of credible parties.

[Taruc] One of the things we noted was the strength of your camaraderie with, to mention a few, Commodore Domingo Calajate, Captain Felix Turingan, Captain Panelo—you look very, very close, especially today.

[Honasan] Joe, I think that is what a long-term revolution should be. No revolution has been started by the majority. It is always a small group of people who believe in their principles, who are firm and, as I earlier mentioned, who have given importance to the reforms we want.

[Taruc] Regarding news about your plan to enter the movies...

[Honasan] I think this is due to discussions by various sectors, but there has not been a formal discussion about this.

[Taruc] Is any movie producer talking to you, Greg?

[Honasan] Recently, word reached me that Mrs. Armida Siguion Reyna [Enrile's half-sister] was interested in making a movie about our movement. The movie would not be giving too much attention to a few personalities, like your humble servant. This is better because the message would run deeper if articulated in this form, in a movie.

[Taruc] You have gone to a lot of places in the Philippines. Have you given attention to your place in Bicol?

[Honasan] Yes, although my fellow Bicolanos and relatives do not know that I visit the place once in a while. But it is better that way so that their understanding and support for our struggle will really be of their own volition.

[Taruc] Greg, at this stage of our interview, if you have a message you want to reach our government, particularly the NUC, the National Unification Commission, and to our countrymen, go ahead please.

[Honasan] Joe, I wish to give this short message not only to the NUC and to our countrymen, but especially to our youth. I wish to tell you that the ongoing peace negotiations are a big opportunity, an opportunity to examine the basic issues that have long festered in our society. To our youth, it is clear that we are doing this for our future and for your benefit. So, you should avoid vices, prepare well, because the day will come when you will lead the country. I hope that in our fervent prayers we see the lasting peace, development and unity which we have long pined for. Long live. And thank you, Joe.

Ramos: Panel Authorized To Negotiate With RAM

HK0102143093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The government panel headed by University of the Philippines Professor Alfredo Tadiar has the authority to negotiate with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM].

President Ramos clarified this in his regular conference in Malacanang today. The president said the government need not clarify the status of the panel. Tadiar's group has been instructed to conduct formal talks with the RAM, but that the final part of the talks will have to pass through the executive and congress.

Earlier it was reported that the talks between the two groups collapsed because it was not clear to the rebels whether Tadiar has the authority or not.

President Ramos has called on the military rebels not to pass up the government offer for them to lead a new life.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] The final decision will be by the president in consultation with the leaders of congress, the senate president, and the house of representatives. Because that was what was in the amnesty proclamation. [preceding sentence in Tagalog] Both houses have already ratified proclamations 10 and 10-E. The details have still to be worked out. [end recording]

Further on Panel's Power

HK0202042093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Cherry Velarde and Chit Estella]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday said government negotiators have full authority to negotiate with military rebels despite the insurgents' claim that the panel is powerless.

"The panel that is now negotiating with the military rebels is the panel that I approved to negotiate with them and so there should be no difficulty or apprehension or doubt on the part of anyone as to the authority of the panel to negotiate," he said in a press conference.

But Ramos said a decision on such matters as amnesty for rebels falls within the authority of the office of the President in consultation with Congress.

He told rebel negotiators who broke off talks last week it would be up to them if they want to abandon the peace talks.

"The rebels should not waste this opportunity to help reconstruct and restore Philippine society into what it should be... They should not lose this opportunity but I guess in the end, it is really their choice," he said.

A rebel source yesterday said their panel would make good its threat to withdraw if their government counterparts are not given full powers by the President.

"If the Philippine government panel has no power whatsoever to commit anything, there is no use talking because it would be an exercise in futility," he said.

The source added, "We may eventually pull out of the negotiations. There might as well be no negotiations at all."

Prof. Alfredo Tadiar, the chief government negotiator, had earlier said his panel cannot be expected to commit the entire government to any agreement with the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement].

Insisting that the talks have not been suspended indefinitely as reported, Tadiar said the two panels have even agreed on a specific date for their next meeting. He did not say when it will be.

Rep. Jose Yap (Laban [Nation's Strength], Tarlac), said the second round of exploratory talks with the National Democratic Front and the Moro National Liberation Front might be held simultaneously in Manila.

Military: MNLF Using Truce To Recruit

HK0202050093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Report by Noel Bartolome]

[Text] Military intelligence analysts yesterday said the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] has taken advantage of a six-year truce with the government to recruit members.

Citing recent reports, they said the strength of the MNLF, which has been growing at a slow pace since 1987, rose from 13,690 regular guerillas in 1991 to 15,560 as of December last year.

They said under an agreement signed by former President Aquino and MNLF chairman Nur Misuari in 1987, guerillas are free to move around their strongholds in Mindanao.

The rebels have taken advantage of this by recruiting and training guerillas in their base areas, they added.

They also said the support being extended by the Organization of Islamic Conference to the MNLF remains an attraction to young Muslims who are attracted to the rebels' call for an independent Muslim homeland in the south.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] however, continues to decline in number, from 5,680 men in 1991 to 5,600 as of last year.

The MILF operates mostly in Cotabato and Maguindanao and is headed by Hashim Salamat.

Muslim Rebels: Peace Talks Most Important

HK0202070893 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] will not participate in the coming Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] elections. MILF Chief of Staff (Ahlje Morad) said they value the peace talks more than the upcoming ARMM elections, because national peace depends on them. He also said that the MILF will not be fielding any candidate during the elections because they need to prepare for the talks.

Thailand

PRC's Qian Qichen Stops, Discusses Cambodia

BK0202075793 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 2 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] Qian Qichen, Chinese state councillor and foreign minister, held talks with Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri on the Cambodian problem while stopping over at the Don Muang Airport yesterday morning.

Qian Qichen was on a stopover in Bangkok before boarding a plane to Rangoon after completing his visit to Vientiane. He held talks with Prasong, who was about to leave for a visit to Indonesia, for about an hour.

After the meeting, Prasong told reporters that the two sides agreed that the Cambodian problem should be determined by the Cambodian people themselves.

The Thai and Chinese foreign ministers also exchanged views on cooperation to improve land transportation traffic between northern Thailand, Laos, and Burma.

Qian Qichen declined to answer reporters' questions at the airport.

Bangkok Radio Sees 'Hope for Peace' in Cambodia

BK0202100793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 2 Feb 93

["Special Article: Hope for Peace in Cambodia Still Prevails Today"]

[Text] The protracted problem of peace in Cambodia has been challenging the proficiency of the three parties concerned—namely, the four Khmer factions, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia or UNTAC, and the countries participating in the Cambodian peace talks. Thailand, though not directly responsible for the peace process in Cambodia but as a close neighboring country sharing a common border with Cambodia, has clearly demonstrated its intent and exerted its full efforts to secure peace in the region.

However, the hope for a permanent peace in Cambodia has appeared after the consultative meeting between Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, was held in Beijing on 18 January during which they discussed the possibility of having a presidential election held in Cambodia before the general election originally scheduled in May.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk has accepted Thailand's proposal for him to be the president of Cambodia, and this can be regarded as an achievement of the Thai Government in demonstrating its sincerity toward Cambodia and the starting point for durable peace in Cambodia, because with a leader who is accepted by all factions, the SNC should have the power it needs to effectively play the role of restoring stability and peace in Cambodia. In particular, the SNC will be able to minimize conditions for the upcoming general election set by leaders of the four Khmer factions, who are still afraid that they may not be given fair treatment in the election campaigns for they can be harassed or assaulted during them.

The Thai foreign minister said that the said maneuver taken by the Thai Government on behalf of ASEAN does not mean that UNTAC's peace mission in Cambodia has failed. But it was aimed at assisting the Cambodian peace process, which is being executed in accordance with the set procedure. Having clearly demonstrated its political attitude toward the Cambodian problem, the Thai Government, on behalf of ASEAN, also wishes to secure peace and tranquility in the region.

The Cambodian problem has a direct impact on Thailand's interests in the long run. Peace in Cambodia, at least, will save Thailand from the border problem and an influx of Cambodian refugees. Subsequently, Thailand will be able to continue its socioeconomic development scheme in the areas along the border with Cambodia. Therefore, the Thai Government must give its full support and assistance to the endeavors to solve the Cambodian problem in an appropriate manner. As the general election draws near, support, assistance, and cooperation rendered by all sides concerned will hopefully bring permanent tranquillity and peace to Cambodia in the future.

Spokesman Anticipates Exodus From Cambodia

BK0202133793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, the director of the Supreme Command Information Office, has received reports from the Chanthaburi-Trat Force to the effect that the Heng Samrin forces have surrounded Pailin, which is opposite Thailand's Pong Nam Ron District. He says:

[Begin Anuson recording] Regarding the impact on Thailand, if there is an attack on Pailin the Thai military estimates that heavy fighting will result. The Khmer Rouge are unlikely to surrender this area under its control to the Heng Samrin side. The UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces in the nearby areas will be affected. Thai people who have been carrying out trading activities in Pailin may have to return. Cambodian people will also cross into Thailand.

In short, if heavy fighting occurs the Chanthaburi-Trat Force will have to be responsible for overseeing the orderliness of the people crossing from Cambodia. [end recording]

Minister Pledges To Keep Refugees Out

BK0202131993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] In connection with the fighting between the Khmer Rouge and the other three Cambodian factions, Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak is confident that there are sufficiently strong measures to prevent armed elements from violating the Thai border. He says the Cambodians know who are friends or foes and understand that Thailand wants to restore peace in Cambodia.

[Begin recording] [Wichit] I feel that if they want to eliminate the Khmer Rouge they would have to do everything to take away the Khmer Rouge controlled areas. However, I believe that this will be difficult to accomplish because the Khmer Rouge forces have quite a strong military capability.

[Unidentified reporter] Have we new measures, other than previous ones, to push these people out?

[Wichit] Push who out?

[Unidentified reporter] The new arrivals.

[Wichit] We already issued an instruction to ensure that they do not cross into our territory, particularly the armed elements which we already have measures to deal with if they cross the border.

[Unidentified reporter] What instruction has been given to deal with the situation in Pailin?

[Wichit] The instruction is the same, because it is under the responsibility of the Supreme Command. The Supreme Command will issue instructions on what measures are to be taken if fighting erupts in Cambodia.

[Unidentified reporter] Have we made an assessment of the situation in Cambodia?

[Wichit] The reports of the Supreme Command and Army staff units say that it is the internal affair of the Cambodians. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Major General Sanong Rotphothong, the deputy defense minister, says Thailand does not want to interfere in Cambodian internal affairs.

[Begin Sanong recording] I have received many reports regularly; I cannot possibly detail them. There are many reports concerning border security which are the basic task of the soldiers. We will not interfere in Cambodia, with exception of assistance in highway construction and bomb disposal. [end recording]

Cambodians 'Continually Change' Positions

BK0202133593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan has continued to show a sincere desire for peaceful settlement of the situation in Cambodia, despite an unencouraging response from the Cambodian side.

[Begin recording] [Surin] The problem is that we are unable to pin down the statements or positions of any Cambodian leaders concerning what they want or expect from ASEAN or the world community. They continually change their positions; that is the troubling problem.

[Unidentified reporter] There is the view that the weak point is particularly Prince Sihanouk, who continually changes his positions, thus making it difficult to achieve peace in Cambodia. What adjustments has the Thai Government made to deal with this problem?

[Surin] We will have to think about our firm position. That is, from now on we have this clear direction and it is up to them whether they will join it. The other ASEAN countries have always supported us. We want to see ASEAN and our efforts receive clear, firm, and continuous responses. But to date we have not detected such responses from the direction of Cambodia. [end recording]

Paper Interviews Air Chief Marshal Kaset

BK3001080293 Bangkok PHU CHATKAN in Thai 27 Jan 93 pp 20,22

[Interview with Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, inspector general of the Armed Forces, by PHU CHATKAN's senior editor Khamnun Sitthisaman, and columnist Pricha Kulapricha, at Kaset's residence on the premises of the Air Force Headquarters in Bangkok on 25 January]

[Text] [PHU CHATKAN] There have been reports about you taking up politics, planning to run in elections, or establishing a political party. We would like to know about these reports.

[Kaset] Thiti (Lieutenant Commander Thiti Nakhonthap) just said whatever he wanted, citing my name, and the name of Suchinda. In truth, we knew nothing about it. Thiti is the kind of person who wants to make himself look important. Whatever he said... it's not true. Therefore, there was a denial. If I really want to take up politics, I will make my own plan. I am not interested in the plan others made for me.

There are several factors in politics. Concerning the government, if it can perform the administration smoothly, why should we then meddle with it? If the government is good, we should let it do the work. But if it fails, that is another story. In short, we do not have much choice about the prime minister. I would like to see people with knowledge and capability enter politics so that we have more choices. Our politicians have blocked the way of many by prescribing that the prime minister must come from an election. I would like to see any of us—from the military, police, or civil service, those with knowledge and capability—feel free to join politics. This would improve the political system in our country.

[PHU CHATKAN] Do you mean that the provision in the Constitution requiring that the prime minister must be an elected politician has limited our choice

[Kaset] I think we have limited our chance, and this was a point in the Constitution I wanted to change when I was in the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council]. As a general qualification, the prime minister must be an elected politician who has the support of half of the number of the MP's. Anyway, this clause should be followed by a clause which says: If the previous clause cannot be implemented, the prime minister can be an outsider. In fact, an elected politician would be the first choice, but we should leave an option open.

In my opinion, there should be a division between the legislative, executive, and juridical powers, especially between the legislative power and executive power. If our executive branch is separate from the legislature, it will be easier to solve the problem of vote-buying because the legislative branch will concentrate only on parliament matters. Meanwhile, members of the party which has won a majority could be named cabinet ministers or prime minister. The role of the two branches should be separate from the beginning in each political party. In this case, I think vote-buying would become less rampant. This is a way to solve the problem.

[PHU CHATKAN] Do you think vote-buying remains an alarming problem?

[Kaset] It is alarming. I heard that some persons had spent up to 60 million [baht]. I estimate that each of them must have spent around 10 million.

[PHU CHATKAN] Suppose you had won an election through a parliamentary process and formed a government. Now that you have power, what would you do to achieve your dream of improving the political situation in the country?

[Kaset] Our political system is still lagging behind. Our parliamentary election, which is a process in the political system, has not improved. How can we reduce the number of political parties? How can we make it more difficult for those desiring to set up new parties? You risk being condemned if you propose that there should be only two or three political parties. We must have a method in order to make it more difficult to set up political parties. This is one way to solve the problem. If our political parties really wish to see political stability, they must try to work for that end. But they really did nothing much. There should be about five big parties running in the election, and the role of parliamentarians should be limited to legislatative work. If they want to be cabinet ministers, they must resign from the legislature. There should be a clear-cut role provided for those in the executive branch and those in the legislative branch. This method will help strengthen the political party system. Actually, politicians running in the election only want to become prime minister. In fact, this is not the responsibility of MP's. This is not the purpose of being MP's. I think this should be changed. Once this issue is amended, politics in our country will improve gradually, without having to resort to violence as in other countries.

Poilitics in Thailand is a family system. We must try to change this.

Concerning education, the government must provide free compulsory education to the people. Anyway, this involves a large budget.

[PHU CHATKAN] In what manner and at what time will you opt for politics?

[Kaset] No, not now. I still have time. But I will have to make up my mind if there is a plan for a general election before October.

[PHU CHATKAN] The people in general still do not know about your position in Sara Buri Province. Please tell us about it.

[Kaset] I am a native of Sara Buri. I was born there and completed my elementary and secondary education there. Then I came to Bangkok because I wanted to work in forestry, as my father was in this profession. But as a boy from upcountry, I could not find the Forestry Department. So I ended up taking a test at the Preparatory School for Universities. I studied at the Preparatory School and then enrolled at the medical school of Chulalongkon University. My parents were happy with the idea of their son being a doctor.

I joined the Air Force because of friends. The Air Force school opened for the first time. Many of us from Chulalongkon enrolled in it. I was accepted. When they asked me if I wanted to take the course, I agreed. That's how my life changed. Originally, I wanted to be in forestry.

[PHU CHATKAN] When did you meet General Suchinda Khraprayun?

[Kaset] After we graduated. Class 1 graduates were not very prominent at that time. When he became lieutenant colonel, I was wing commander. During the 1-3 April 1981 coup, there was a conflict between Class 7 and Class 5. In fact, I was a friend of both classes. I was close to Colonel Prachak Sawangchit of Class 7. But when they staged the 1-3 April 1981 coup, we did not approve it. It was confusing. In the beginning, they claimed that General Prem Tinsulanon was the coup leader. But when the announcement was read, it was Gen. San Chitpatima. We were so puzzled—a coup, what for? We did not report to them, but we supported the resistance. Those countering the coup joined us at the Air Force Command, Don Muang, and we sent some of them to Korat. The April Fool coup was aborted because the Air Force did not join the coup plotters.

At that time, Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Gen. Suchinda worked in the same team. Gen. Chawalit stayed at the Air Force Command airport with me for three days. We slept in the office. As Gen. Chawalit and others were sleeping, I stayed awake because I had to protect them as I was the host.

I was very close to Gen. Chawalit then. All of us, we slept in the office and in the operations room at the airport. We did not know where to put ourselves because there were many people at the airport. Gen. Chawalit was chief of the operations center, Suchinda was a staff member. We were very close. When he was lieutenant colonel, Suchinda was appointed secretary to the then-interior minister (General Sitthi Chirarot).

Our class get-together has been held each year for 10 years now, since we were at the rank of colonel. In the beginning, we called ourselves Group 01, not 0143. Nobody paid attention to us. In fact, each class held a regular meeting. But Group 01, Class 8 and Class 9 of the Chulachomklao Military Academy organized parties more frequently, and I always attended their parties. It is also the tradition of the three branches of the Armed Forces to hold parties. Then Class 5 and Class 3 organized parties annually. Finally, we took turns hosting the party—the Army, Navy, and Air Force. But it was more frequent for the Army to be the host because it has the highest number of members, that is, 150, while the Navy has only 70 and the Air Force 30. It has been the practice for many years now for us to rotate hosting of the get-togethers.

[PHU CHATKAN] But why has Gen. Suchinda been chairman of your class all the time?

[Kaset] Suchinda is a very bright person. He is a staff leader. He became popular during the April Fool coup. Friends realized how brilliant he was.

[PHU CHATKAN] You are a close friend of both Gen. Chawalit and Gen. Suchinda. What was your attitude when the two were in conflict?

[Kaset] Their conflict was a political conflict, a conflict of political ideologies. I myself did not agree with Gen. Chawalit when he took up politics. When he was supreme commander, we were still close friends with him. But when he decided to take up politics, when he was deputy prime minister and defense minister, we already felt worried for him. Anyway, we still backed him even when there was an indication that he wanted to be prime minister. When there was a conflict between him and General Chatchai Chunhawan, Gen. Chawalit quit as deputy prime minister and founded his political party. From that point, our relationship has cooled off. Before, we met at least once a week for lunch. Gen. Chawalit founded a political party, together with members like Wira Musikaphong and several other left-leaning people. In short, we are reluctant to support him. We felt that this kind of a political party would not survive. Anyway, we let him pursue his plan according to his wishes.

Since the coup staged by the NPKC (23 February 1991), Gen. Chawalit has become even more distant from the Armed Forces. He never called us—the commanders of the Armed Forces—for lunch or for a chit-chat. He was so confident that his party would come in first in the general election.

Concerning the Samakkhi Tham Party, it was founded because of suggestion by one among us. We risked our lives by staging a coup, but we declined to be the government ourselves or hold on to power. Suppose somebody were to revive the case in the future and take action against us, what would we do? So it was thought we should have a political party to back us up. Based on this, Suchinda has been advised to set up a political party. And that's the reason for the Samakkhi Tham Party.

[PHU CHATKAN] The distance between Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the NPKC—was it caused by Gen. Chawalit's open letter giving advice to the NPKC?

[Kaset] It started after he founded his party (the New Aspiration Party). Before, he would call a meeting of commanders of the Armed Forces each time he made a decision: when he resigned as supreme commander to become deputy prime minister, and when he resigned as deputy prime minister. That was what he did. But not any more.

[PHU CHATKAN] Yes, the people in general also thought that Gen. Chawalit favored Class 5, or Group 0143, and he promoted them to commanding ranks in charge of the Armed Forces. Then, what happened that became a problem? What is the truth?

[Kaset] Yes, it was true that he once favored us. I think the problem came from his political philosophy. This became clear after he left the Armed Forces.

[PHU CHATKAN] Such as his thinking about the Presidium.

[Kaset] This is an old story dug up. As a fact, Gen. Chawalit is a man of theory. But how can his theory possibly be implemented? It is unclear what his presidium would be like. He advocated a presidium with the king as head. But this kind of thing has never existed. It was therefore something which could be talked about but not implemented. In fact, Gen. Chawalit is democratic-minded, but he looks at things from his particular point of view.

[PHU CHATKAN] It seemed that he had a conflict of opinion with the NPKC after it staged the coup, and this led to a real confrontation in the first general election (on 22 March 1992).

[Kaset] Because he knew the NPKC gained backing from some politicians. I had trouble. Gen. Chawalit had trouble. We all had trouble. This was because we rejected each other. Those who are younger could not take it when their seniors got power. This is the fault of our system. We quarreled. The same with General Athit Kamlang-ek. He always thought he was big. He scolded us when we offered opinions. This is the system of the military. We respect seniority. I was close to Gen. Athit when he was a student at the Infantry Unit. He was a captain and my brother was first lieutenant. He always called on my brother because my brother had a sister. We were still at secondary school at that time. He treated us like kids, asking as to buy black coffee or soda water for him.

[PHU CHATKAN] What is your relationship with Gen. Chawalit now?

[Kaset] We have no problem. I never interfere in his political career. I went to see him at his request. We cordially talked to each other. There is nothing more than that. This is how our country's politics proceeds.

[PHU CHATKAN] Is it true that you and Gen. Chawalit recently met and discussed politics?

[Kaset] I did not have much time to talk to him. We met at funeral ceremonies like that of one of the graduates of Class 1 of Phra Chunlachomklao Military Academy. Fraternity prevails among us and this is common in our Thai society. Nit (Colonel Sonchai Montriwat, aide-de-camp of Gen. Chawalit) told me that Gen. Chawalit wanted to see me. I told him that Gen. Chawalit could come to my house any time and I also felt free to see him at his residence.

[PHU CHATKAN] Some political parties are worried that you and Gen. Chawalit might join hands to enter politics.

[Kaset] I do not believe that there is any problem in this regard. If I intend to enter politics, I can approach any party. There are many political parties in our country. If I run in a general election, I should be able to get some votes.

[PHU CHATKAN] Have you talked with General Chatchai Chuhawan recently?

[Kaset] Not much. I have no problem with any one, be it Gen. Chawalit, Gen. Chatchai, or Prime Minister Chuan. We talk to each other when we meet.

[PHU CHATKAN] Your task during the crisis was rather heavy.

[Kaset] Nobody wanted the May incident to happen. I tried to warn everyone against the mishap. The masses were instigated, which led to the confrontation between soldiers and demonstrators. I do not want to talk about the incident because I was not there. There were only over 2,000 soldiers stationed under psychological pressure at the scene of the incident while 50,000 to 60,000 were participating in the demonstration.

[PHU CHATKAN] Which side did you warn?

[Kaset] I do not want to talk about it. We must be responsible for whatever happened. I issued a memo instructing them to treat the people in accordance with the five-point policy. I told Itsaraphong (Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, former Army commander) that we must treat them as Thai citizens and avoid the use of weapons.

[PHU CHATKAN] The Capital Peacekeeping Command reportedly sought the permission to use force.

[Kaset] That was in line with the internal peacekeeping plan. An order was issued (by former Prime Minister Gen. Kriangsak Chamanan) to appoint the supreme commander as the internal peacekeeping director in accordance with the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act of 1967. Under the Phairi Phinat [Enemy Destruction] Plan, the Capital Peacekeeping Command can seek support from the army, navy, air force, police, and civil servants. Gen. Itsaraphong, in his capacity as the commander of the Capital Peacekeeping Force, sought approval from the internal peacekeeping director for the use of the Phairi Phinat Plan to cope with the severity of the situation.

[PHU CHATKAN] It appeared that the post you held at that time was the only post supported by law.

[Kaset] We never really discussed the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act. The official holding the supreme commander post automatically became the internal peacekeeping director. This was in accordance with the order of a past prime minister (Gen. Kriangsak Chamanan), which was never revised at any time. I still feel that the act is useful when a crisis arises.

It was I who proposed that the order that created the internal peacekeeping director post be scrapped. Gen. Banchop Bunnak (the defense minister in the second Anan Panyarachun government) consulted me about the matter, and I suggested that the best way is to stop the practice of appointing the supreme commander to be internal peacekeeping director. That is all there is to it. An internal peacekeeping director can be appointed if required by the situation. The official to be appointed director must have the power and must be ready to become prime minister. I see nothing unusual or negative about the act; it is there to be used when needed. It is up to the prime minister; if he does not appoint an internal peacekeeping director, the act is nothing more than a piece of paper.

Anyone, even a civilian, can be appointed the internal peacekeeping director. It is up to the prime minister to decide. The act was conceived during the premiership of Thanin Kraiwichian, but the order making the supreme commander automatically the internal peacekeeping director was issued by Prime Minister Kriangsak.

[PHU CHATKAN] If there was no instruction giving power to the capital security commander (Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi) during the May 1992 incident, who would be held responsible for the incident?

[Kaset] It would be me, the internal peacekeeping director, because I would be issuing orders. As to whether anyone is guilty, investigations will have to be conducted from the lower level upward about who committed what act. But in the end it would be I who would have to be held responsible; I would be the fourth or fifth defendant.

[PHU CHATKAN] Do you have to be held responsible even though you issued an order transferring your authority to someone else?

[Kaset] I would still be responsible. I issued an operational policy, and there is evidence of this. I issued an order before that, too (to the people who were gathering in front of parliament building) for them to disband. I issued a warning for them to disband and fight the issue in parliament.

I did not want violence. Everyone was sorry that it occurred. But if you were in the situation, it was bound to happen with the soldiers and people facing each other in a heated situation.

[PHU CHATKAN] What do you think was the cause of the situation?

[Kaset] Suchinda was the cause. (laughter) They were unhappy with Suchinda.

It could also have been caused by an old rivalry between classes 5 and 7 of the Royal Chunlachomklao Military Academy [RCMA]. Chamlong (Major General Chamlong Simuang) belongs to class 7.

[PHU CHATKAN] You could say that the rage of the April 1981 coup attempt was still glowing.

[Kaset] If the second April incident had been ignored, state power would have been seized. You could see that Chamlong wanted to seize parliament and government house. It was a way for the masses to seize state power. If the masses had sucessfully seized parliament and government house, that would have been the end and amounted to seizure of state power.

[PHU CHATKAN] Did the NPKC's intelligence and your intelligence indicate that the masses would be led to seize parliament?

[Kaset] We followed the situation continuously. The National Security Council and other intelligence units also sent their reports.

[PHU CHATKAN] If you view that the May 1992 incident amounted to a fight between the RCMA classes 5 and 7, do you think this fight has ended?

[Kaset] You could say that the incident was related to the RCMA because the RCMA and politics are related. The class rivalry is really not that significant. I do not pay attention to the class question myself; we are all brothers.

Senior officials are too talkative. Chawalit and Suchinda liked to talk and they were committed by what they said. Chawalit said often that he would resign from the military post before retirement. Why did he have to say that? Suchinda said he would not accept the prime minister post. Let me relate to you something about Suchinda. Suchinda kept his word. He would not accept the premier post after the election. However, after Narong Wongwan was grilled Suchinda was asked to accept the post on grounds that no one else was as suitable to tackle the country's situation. Suchinda then had to accept the post, although at first he rejected it in favor of Narong. The five government coalition parties eventually picked Suchinda and appealed to him to accept the post. Suchinda decided on the last day to accept the post. Although he really did not want the premier post he could not reject the persistent appeal by the five parties.

I really do not know what to say. I think it was fate. In the first place, why did we stage the coup? Gen. Chatchai, Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, and I talked at the guest house from 2000 to 0100 not long before the coup about problems between the military and the government. We told Chatchai that he could be prime minister as long as he wanted and the military would not intervene with the government's power. We also discussed several other matters. Chatchai was unhappy with Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong because he was too frank and outspoken. Chatchai's dislike of Sunthon also was fueled by his young advisers. Chatchai visited me at home on 17 February, I think, and we cleared up problems. He told me that he would assign military matters to Suchinda, saying he trusted him. Then came the attempted assassination of a royal family member. Sunthon gave an interview with the press in his typical frank manner. Certain issues should not have been discussed because they would affect other people. Sunthon never thought about this and related what the facts were. This displeased Chatchai.

On 18 February Chatchai contacted me asking me to help. He said he would remove Sunthon as supreme commander and replace him with Suchinda. He asked me to consult Suchinda. I did and we decided that we could not accept it because we already told Chatchai that Sunthon no longer had control of the troops. We also asked Sunthon to tone down his remarks during interviews. So we informed Chatchai that we could not accept his plan. Moreover, Sunthon would retire in a few months. Chatchai was given assurances that the military would not interfere with the government.

Suddenly an announcement was issued that Gen. Athit Kamlang-ek, deputy prime minister, would also become concurrently deputy defense minister. This situation destroyed everything. Athit and Sunthon did not like each other. Athit disliked Sunthon so much that he did not even accept the salute of Sunthon, and he felt Sunthon was a playboy.

I went on a private trip to Korea on 21 February to get away from the problem. I arrived in Korea late at night. Less than 24 hours after arriving in Korea, I received a phone call at the hotel where I was staying at between 2200 and 2300. The call was from Sunthon, who was recalling me to Bangkok. I returned to Bangkok at 0200 and upon arriving at my home found many Air Force colleagues waiting. The discussion involved what to do if the military were forced to change the government. There was a plan by the Army to release tanks onto Bangkok's streets. I said that that plan would create confusion and suggested use of the Air Force plan instead. Actually, on the plane I had a hunch that I was called back because they must have decided to stage a coup. I was planning the coup in my head on that plane.

On 23 February Chatchai was scheduled to bring Athit to see the king for an appointment. I and Air Force colleagues were making coup plans until about 0400 when Suchinda arrived. I told Suchinda that if a coup was to be staged my plan should be used in order not to frighten the people. Suchinda agreed. Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan, the Navy commander, could not be contacted and therefore was not informed of the coup decision. At 0600 I called Suchinda to come to reconfirm use of the Air Force plan. Things went smoothly and no one was aware of our coup plan.

[PHU CHATKAN] If Gen. Athit had not been appointed, there would not have been a coup. Is this correct?

[Kaset] Correct, Sunthon would not have considered staging a coup.

[PHU CHATKAN] The military had already informed the government that it could not accept replacement of Gen. Sunthon by Gen. Suchinda as supreme commander. Is this correct?

[Kaset] The issue was discussed on 21 February and it should have ended then. But it was unprecedented that a deputy prime minister was made concurrently deputy defense minister. It was done specifically to deal with Sunthon.

[PHU CHATKAN] At that time Suchinda did not know that he would be removed as well. Is this correct?

[Kaset] Correct. If the plan to remove Sunthon was accepted Suchinda would have been appointed supreme commander.

After the coup was completed, it was I who worried about the military being criticized as being dictatorial or embarking on dictatorship. So I suggested that a civilian government be formed. I have democratic ideals but the fact is that they were not easy to practice. It is not easy to stage a coup and not accept the premiership. It was an expensive lesson. I did not know what could have been done then with the situation the way it was.

[PHU CHATKAN] Were you the one who suggested that a civilian be appointed prime minister?

[Kaset] At first Sunthon, then Suchinda, were asked if they wanted the prime ministerial post. They did not want it and wanted me to take it. I knew that many people would not be happy if I accepted because I was not an RCMA graduate and because I was merely the number three man on the NPKC. So I suggested we try to find a civilian as prime minister. At first, the candidates were Ukrit Mongkhonnawin and Asa Sarasin. Anan Panyarachun became the third candidate. Suchinda gave his support to Anan because he knew him when working together in the United States. I did not know Anan; I actually supported Ukrit and Asa.

[PHU CHATKAN] Prime Minister Anan and the Air Force often had conflicts of ideas. The NPKC and the government were not thinking in the same direction. Was this a reason why things were not smooth?

[Kaset] The NPKC did not have a working organization. Although Itsaraphong was the secretary general of the NPKC, he did not perform any secretarial duty but was busy, and preferred to be so, with the Interior Ministry. As a result, the working relationship between the NPKC and the government was virtually nonexistent and there was no one to oversee it. The government tried to bypass the NPKC and went directly to parliament. In the first few months of the government, I suggested to Sunthon that we remove Anan for his conduct. There was agreement that the government must consult the NPKC before proposing any law or taking any action. This was because the government was the NPKC's creation. I suggested to Sunthon, who as the NPKC chairman had the sole power to dismiss the prime minister, that to allow the prime minister to do what he did would bring criticism upon the NPKC from the people. Sunthon would say that we should wait and let the government work for a while.

As the government's term was nearing its end, Sunthon would say: Let us remove Anan. I told him it was too late then because to do so would further damage the NPKC.

[PHU CHATKAN] If the NPKC had had a strong organization things might have been different?

[Kaset] The secretary general must be the work horse to contact the Cabinet to ensure that any action is preceded by consultation with us. There were five or six of us. Normally, the consultation involved the prime minister and five of my NPKC colleagues.

[PHU CHATKAN] So, the lesson is if there were to be another coup this practice would not be repeated.

[Kaset] No more coups.

[PHU CHATKAN] Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan had no knowledge of the coup, right?

[Kaset] He only knew that a coup was certain but did not know when because I changed the Army's plan.

[PHU CHATKAN] Did the Air Force begin to play a political role at that time?

[Kaset] I knew for certain that a coup was unavoidable after 21 February. I left the country on 21 February because there was a lot of pressure. Sunthon and other colleagues already had had consultations. The plan changed because of my suggestion. This was why Adm. Praphat was confused.

Sunthon went to the airport. He knew where he must sit. He went to the airport to observe.

[PHU CHATKAN] What is your view of the current situation?

[Kaset] The government must do something to show its performance. It must be aggressive. In order to solve our economic problems every side concerned must be consulted, particularly the businessmen involved. For example, to solve the rice price problem the businessmen involved in the rice trade must be brought together to discuss what should be done. The government must give them something in return. They should not be asked to work for nothing. I believe that if everyone is involved there will be no problem.

[PHU CHATKAN] What is your opinion regarding Maj. Gen. Chamlong not accepting the leadership of the Phalang Tham Party and instead setting up a political school in Kanchanaburi Province? Will this development result in any problem?

[Kaset] Chamlong is smart. He knows that to date his image has not been so good so he is trying to distance himself. The fact is that Chamlong is the mastermind who controls the party leader. Whoever becomes the new Phalang Tham party leader can only suffer. This is certainly the case with Prasong Sunsiri. Prasong has no base in the party and his appointment will hurt the feelings of many party MP's. It would be better to have Bunchu as party leader because he was a former party leader and was involved in politics for some time. It would be better for the party's image. But in the background Chamlong controls 100 percent of the power.

[PHU CHATKAN] There are many young people on the party executive committee.

[Kaset] Chamlong's real base is among the masses from Santi Asok and the students. No other person could do the things that Chamlong did. But Chamlong will return to head the party or be prime minister if his party wins the election. He does not stay idle and always makes far-reaching plans.

[PHU CHATKAN] This is your first exclusive interview after the bloody May incident in which you were involved. Would you like to say something that would make readers understand you better?

[Kaset] As far as national administration goes, I have no real comments about a party of preference. I want the political system to be stable—that is, I want the country to be governed by the proper parliamentary system. I am ready to do anything to help the country. Joining politics is not the only way to help the country. Everyone must love the country and he can help the country in the field in which he is involved. It would not be a good idea to focus on becoming the government in order to help the country. It would be better to focus on the parliament. If the government is ready the country will survive. One should not meddle in the affairs of others if he does not have direct responsibility.

[PHU CHATKAN] If you enter politics, will that be only because you believe you could be helpful? Or do you see things that others do not?

[Kaset] As long as I still have strength and wisdom I will do what I can. I do not begrudge events that occurred because I regard them as the course of the democratic administrative system, and such events can occur in or out of parliament. I do not criticize Chamlong or Gen. Chawalit for their success. It is part of the Thai political game.

[PHU CHATKAN] Several people whose assets were confiscated by the NPKC Order No. 26 have filed pleas to have the court rule whether the order was legitimate. The process has reached the Supreme Court. If the courts rule that the order was illegitimate, the case will end. Being part of the NPKC, what do you think will be the positive or negative outcome of the court decision?

[Kaset] I feel that the NPKC orders are legal. It is not possible to interpret NPKC Order No. 26 as illegal because it is legal. Justice rests with the Supreme Court. The verification of assets cannot be use as legal evidence. For example, it is not right to use a cash check as legal evidence because it can be written by anyone for anybody. For example, say I arrange celebration of an auspicious event. People convey their congratulations by writing me a check for 100,000 baht. I could pass the check on to someone else. I think the evidence that the assets verification committee found will be dismissed in court. If the Supreme Court rules that the order was void I would have no reaction because it has to do with interpretation and does not concern me and my colleagues. But I do not think it will be ruled void. The order of the coup party constitutes a law. I think the people who had their assets confiscated will receive favorable rulings by the Supreme Court. It is not possible to prove corruption charges.

I have always opposed the confiscation of assets and explained the strong and weak points of such action, but in practice it was not possible not to do it. Suchinda and Sunthon pointed out that the NPKC announced that one of the purposes of its coup was to eliminate corruption. I pointed out that it would create problems to many people. It is a Thai custom for us to give gifts and it is difficult to trace such gifts. I was not able to change the confiscation order but by appealing to Suchinda and Sunthon it was possible to correct the Order no. 26 to allow for a court ruling on the confiscation instead of a sole ruling by the assets confiscation committee. This is because some committee members could have personal disputes with the people being investigated. In fact, some people escaped confiscation when they should not have.

[PHU CHATKAN] You acted as the person who tried to stop negative developments in the past two years but in the end you had to perform an acute role in the most severe crisis.

[Kaset] I was the man in the hot seat.

[PHU CHATKAN] Do you term yourself a scapegoat?

[Kaset] Yes, such as in the Black May incident when I was not responsible. I did not want to see that incident happen in the first place. Frankly speaking, the loss was the smallest in this type of incident. Similar incidents in other countries would have resulted in many more victims. There was no deliberate killing when a bus was commandeered, set afire, and driven toward a fuel truck. The soldiers panicked and fired at the wheels to stop the bus, causing stray bullets to hit the demonstrators. Regarding the shooting at Phan Fa bridge, it was done as a provocation, which was normal. It was easy to carry out provocation to justify an action.

Vietnam

Hanoi Calls For Lifting of U.S. Embargo

BK0102143993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] At present, the majority of the world maintain that the United States of America has made a big mistake by conducting the Vietnam War. They also called on U.S. President Bill Clinton to lift the trade embargo against Vietnam. Following is our radio comment.

The recent public poll organized by the USA TODAY, the CNN Television, and the (Garlap) Institute showed that after 20 years of the signing of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, many Americans held that the Vietnam War was a good lesson for the U.S. Administration to be more (?sensitive) to public opinion and be more careful whenever it decide to involve in any military conflict in other countries.

Meanwhile, the World Organization for Public Opinion and the Continental Airline of the United States have also held a public poll on the abolition of the trade embargo against Vietnam. Sixty-eight percent of the interviewees—especially businessmen, intellectuals, and veterans—voiced their support for the lifting of the U.S. sanction against Vietnam. It is clear that though the U.S. Administration has made some positive moves toward the normalization of relations with Vietnam, the preconditions proposed recently by Under Secretary of State Clifton Wharton failed to meet the common aspiration of the American and Vietnamese peoples.

The Vietnamese side maintains that the normalization of relations between the two countries benefits both sides without any conditions.

Regarding the MIA issue, Vietnam still considers it a pure humanitarian issue which has no link with any political issues. Nowadays, it is the general knowledge that the U.S. should push up the process of normalization of relations with Vietnam. This will not only serve the interest of the American people, but also peace, stability, and mutual cooperation in the region and the world.

U.S. Public Said Against Embargo

BK0202054193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 1 Feb 93

["Radio comment on the U.S. Administration's attitude toward normalization of relations with Vietnam"]

[Text] Public opinion in the United States of America and many other countries is calling on the U.S. Administration to lift its trade embargo against Vietnam.

The recent declaration made by U.S. Under Secretary of State Clifton Wharton on some solutions for the normalization of relations with Vietnam has made American people (?despair). In a political poll conducted in Washington recently, 68 percent of those questioned called on the Bill Clinton administration to abolish its economic sanctions against Vietnam. They also pointed out that it was a mistake for the United States to fight the war in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES, (Jay Robinson), who is a member of Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and collaborator of a law company in New York, noted that President Bush's refusal to lift the U.S. trade embargo on Vietnam before leaving the White House was an irresponsible act insulting the American businessman. Mr. (Robinson) noted that while many businessmen from Japan, Australia, China, Germany and France have invested in Vietnam, American businessmen are banned to do business there. He also recalled that the U.S. Administration did not punish the German and Japanese peoples or American business circles and did not impose any sanctions when it failed to find all the Americans missing in action during World War II and the Korean war. He then put the question why the United States took punitive measures against American business circles and the Vietnamese people. Was it because the U.S. forces had (?failed) in the Vietnam war, which many American people thought that the United States should never have involved in.

In conclusion, Mr. (Robinson) said that the U.S. Administration only wanted to punish Vietnam rather than to trace the Americans missing in action. He called on the new Government of the United States of America to be wiser in solving this issue.

For its part, the Thai newspaper THE NATION in its editorial last Friday called on the U.S. Administration to annul its embargo against Vietnam. The editorial noted that the U.S. should forget the so-called Vietnam Syndrome by lifting the economic sanctions against Vietnam, the country having been devastated by the U.S. air war. It added that in the changing world situation, there is no reason for prolonging the [word indistinct] past events for [word indistinct]. It is time for President Bill Clinton to take this positive step with the normalization of relations with Vietnam.

Premier Views Relations With ROK, Other Issues

SK0102233893 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Interview with Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, by Pak Song-pom, director of the Korean Broadcasting System General Broadcasting Bureau, in Ho Chi Min City on 24 January—recorded; Pak Song-pom asks questions in English while Vo Van Kiet responds in Vietnamese with simultaneous Korean translation]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] The normalization of relations between the ROK and Vietnam last December was of great importance because it signifies the start of new cooperation between the two countries and the end of the cold war. How do you assess the significance of the normalization?

[Vo Van Kiet] The establishment of SRV-ROK diplomatic relations has a very important meaning. I highly assess it. In fact, I think the two countries should have established diplomatic relations earlier.

[Pak] You are now the head of the cabinet of the reunified Vietnam. You were one of the very important commanders during the war. Could you tell us, Koreans, who participated in the war, your feeling frankly?

[Vo Van Kiet] Our past struggle against foreign forces can be explained as follows in terms of its historic meaning: Our Vietnamese people's resistance against the aggression by the U.S. allied forces, including the ROK, with the United States as the main bloc, was a struggle to defend our Vietnamese people's sovereignty and freedom and to achieve our national reunification. This struggle was the final means for resisting the aggression by the U.S. forces and their allied forces. Therefore, there was no other choice than these means. Not only the ROK (?Army solidiers) who participated in the war, but also the people of North and South Korea as a whole did not want to participate in the Vietnam war.

Like the ROK's history, the history of Vietnam, too, has had close ties with foreign affairs. In other words, we are nations with peoples who were born with the same destiny. Therefore, we have classified this separately. We do not consider all Americans as our enemy. Our struggle is one against some U.S. military aggressors.

[Pak] The ROK had had very sad and uncomfortable relations with Vietnam until the early seventies. What kind of efforts are needed to heal the pains of the past between the two countries?

[Vo Van Kiet] It is true that Vietnam and the ROK had a regrettable past. I think, however, now is the time for the two countries to make efforts for the world's development, peace, and stability. It is important for our two countries not to cling to the past but to liquidate it and to map out the future. In the course of mapping out the future, the two countries should move toward cooperating with each other and deepening friendship.

The normalization of relations between the two countries has an important meaning not only for the development of the two countries, but also for the development of the world. Therefore, I believe that the recent normalization of relations between the two countries will provide a most outstanding result for the world's development. I firmly believe that the normalization of relations between the two countries will mark an occasion for new development in their relations. I can say that mutual cooperation and a joint plan will greatly contribute to the world's development, as well as to new development between the two countries.

[Pak] How do you like to see the direction of the economic cooperation between Vietnam and the ROK?

[Vo Van Kiet] Economic cooperation between the two countries has been achieved in many fields. The two countries' cooperation has been made for years in trade and economic development in particular. The two countries have also achieved vigorous cooperation in the fields of science and technology. The Vietnamese Government highly appraises the ROK because of its experience in economic development.

Our Vietnamese Government has continued to study an economic policy which meets the specific situation facing Vietnam. I think that the ROK's amazing economic development today is attributable to the South Korean's diligent character. I know that South Korean's creative and persistent efforts, as well, are the sources of today's economic development in the ROK. I believe that Vietnam and the ROK will, in the future, achieve more vigorous economic cooperation in more fields than they do now. What we, Vietnam, should do in continuing economic cooperation with the ROK is study how the ROK's economic development has been achieved in such a short period of time and apply it to our own situation. In admiring the South Korean's efforts in having achieved economic development, once again I hope that Vietnam, too, will achieve a high level of economic growth some time in the future.

[Pak] I understand that the renovation policy which you say "doi moi" is being executed very successfully. What is the basic direction of the policy? And what do you assess its achievement and programs?

[Vo Van Kiet] Let me mention our country's doi moi, that is, a renovation policy, which is, in other words, Vietnam's reform policy. The basic direction of the doi moi policy is to lead all of our people to enjoy a happy and stable life. The policy's goal is to build a rich and beautiful country and to defend our freedom and sovereignty with our own efforts as taught by President Ho Chi Minh.

[Pak] Vietnam is abundant in natural resources. In particular, many countries are interested in joining the development of the Bay of Tonkin. What is the possibility of Korean industries participating in the development?

[Vo Van Kiet] Our Vietnamese Government does not hesitate to welcome and encourage the ROK Government and ROK firms. Citing examples of the possibility of cooperation between Vietnam and the ROK, I can indicate first a high voltage electric work of 500 kilovolts. The development of mines and oil fields is also an example that the two countries can cooperate. In addition to these fields, there are many other fields wherein the two countries can cooperate. In particular, the two countries have made great efforts in developing the transportation field. Our government is well aware that the ROK's technology is outstanding. This is why the Vietnamese Government does not hesitate in welcoming and encouraging the ROK Government and ROK firms to join in resource development in Vietnam.

[Pak] We think there are still many problems to be solved between Vietnam and the United States for the normalization of their relations. What is your basic policy direction toward the United States? When do you expect to realize their normalization?

[Vo Van Kiet] Under the present situation, U.S.-SRV relations are continuing to develop. There are still problems, however, that should be first solved before establishing cooperative relations. The problem of U.S. MIA's should be solved first. In other words, the problem of finding the remains of U.S. soldiers should be solved first. Our government has made all possible efforts to solve this problem from a humanitarian standpoint. What all Vietnamese want is to completely liquidate past unhappy relations with the United States and to have a good future with the Americans. I think that the American people probably share the same desire. This benefits not only Vietnam and the United States, but it also benefits all of Southeast Asia. What the people of Vietnam and the United States desire is precisely the normalization of relations between the two countries.

[Pak] Vietnam remains one of North Korea's closest allies. Are there any changes since the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the ROK?

[Vo Van Kiet] Vietnam and North Korea, as you, Mr. Pak, noted a few minutes ago, have maintained traditional relations as allies. We will maintain friendly relations in the future, as well. We have always attached importance to this friendship between the two countries.

The relations between Vietnam and North Korea, however, do not deter or affect the relations between Vietnam and the ROK.

I know that the ROK and North Korea have been making much effort. We do not consider this to be hostile. I hope that the North and South resolve this in a peaceful and friendly manner through consultations. I welcome and support this position. This will be the hope of all people in North and South Korea.

[Pak] Korea is still divided into the North and South. What kind of efforts are necessary from both sides of North and South Korea for the reunification?

[Vo Van Kiet] I know that the North and South have from 1991 up until now tried to resolve the issue concerning North and South Korea. In other words, very positive exchanges have taken place between the North and South. This will provide good fruition in the reunification of North and South Korea and will be beneficial to the development of the situation between North and South Korea.

I think the North and South must have an understanding of each other to achieve reunification. Vietnam knows well [words indistinct] through struggle. Therefore, we have a good understanding of the situation of the North and South. Vietnam will always wholeheartedly support and help the North and South if the two brothers go toward reunification with love.

[Pak] The end of the cold war and a change to the market economy have brought much difficulties to East European countries and Russia. How would these changes affect the foreign policy of Vietnam?

[Vo Van Kiet] Developments in the former Soviet Union and the East European bloc have greatly affected the situations in many countries of the world. Asia, where we are living, has been no exception. It is true that Vietnam has been affected by these changes.

Vietnam and the former Soviet Union had maintained traditional relations for a long time, and the two peoples were close during the period of our struggle for independence. Therefore, we had prepared ourselves to accommodate change. We surely had difficulties but have overcome those difficulties on our own. We have also sought to stabilize the situation in Vietnam. For now, we have overcome all the difficulties. We have made new leaps last year and this year so far.

[Pak] Many Southeast Asian countries are greatly influenced by Japan's economic strength. What is your policy or philosophy in attracting Japan's investment in Vietnam? What is your opinion about Japan's military expansion in the region?

[Vo Van Kiet] Vietnam considers Japan to be one of the world's powerful countries. Japan has good human resources and advanced science and technology. I know, in particular, it is the best of the best in the industrial area. Therefore, I know, good cooperative relations with Japan are very beneficial not only to countries in Northeast Asia but also many countries of the world.

Japan has played important roles in Vietnam. This has contributed to economic development not only in Vietnam but also in Japan. I think those roles by Japan have greatly contributed to friendship, cooperation, and peace in the Asia and the Pacific.

[Pak] The Korea Broadcasting System [KBS] sponsored a Korean cultural event in Hanoi last November. How do you see future cultural exchanges between the two countries?

[Vo Van Kiet] Cultural exchanges between Vietnam and the ROK have brought good results. We will continuously maintain our traditional, national culture. We are willing to promote cultural exchanges not only with the ROK but also with countries of the world in general. Vietnam and the ROK have good reason to promote cultural exchange because they have similar cultures, have many things in common, and, thus, can easily understand each other.

[Pak] What are your expectations of the new president of the ROK, Mr. Kim Yong-sam? His inauguration will be held on 25 February.

[Vo Van Kiet] Vietnam and the ROK have promoted new relations since establishing diplomatic relations. I believe that President-elect Kim Yong-sam will promote cooperative relations between Vietnam and the ROK, just like the ROK has promoted cooperative relations with any other Asian countries. This will be the hope not only of Vietnam and the ROK and but also of all the countries in Asia. I believe that President-elect Kim Yong-sam will do every effort for cooperation between Vietnam and the ROK and fulfill the existing promises between the two countries.

[Pak] I heard that you have a plan to visit my country in May. Will it be realized?

[Vo Van Kiet] I am planning to visit the ROK unless something prevents me from doing so. I am planning to visit other Asian countries when I leave for the ROK.

[Pak] Do you have any message to the Koreans?

[Vo Van Kiet] I want to express the Vietnamese Government's position on this occasion. I am planning to pay great attention to relations between the people of Vietnam and the ROK. I hope the people of the two countries must understand each other and promote extensive exchange. This will lead Vietnam and the ROK to promote more solid relations in the long run. If the two countries promote such relations, the legacies of their unfortunate past will surely be eliminated. Then, I think, the people of Vietnam and the ROK will achieve joint development and prosperity and play sincere roles for peace and friendship in Asia.

[Pak] I thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister, for giving us a long time, during the holidays, for this interview with the KBS. I thank you very much, again.

[Vo Van Kiet] I hope that we will be able to meet again in the future.

Vatican Official To Visit, Focus on Ties

BK3101100493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 31 (AFP)—A senior Vatican envoy arrives Monday in Vietnam, where the second-largest Roman Catholic church in Asia has begun to re-emerge amid new freedoms granted by the communist government.

But the week-long visit by Monsignor Claudio Celli, a Vatican vice foreign minister, is expected to focus on the numerous tensions remaining between Rome and Hanoi, which maintains a wide degree of control over the Vietnamese church.

Selection of new spiritual leaders for Vietnam's six million Catholics will be one of the main issues discussed with Vietnamese authorities, who must approve Rome's appointments to the church hierarchy, Vietnamese officials said.

Vietnam has been without a cardinal since the 1990 death of the archbishop of Hanoi, one of three archbishoprics and several bishoprics to remain vacant, said Vo Quang, chairman of the government's religious affairs committee.

The sensitivity of the succession question is illustrated by the case of Monsignor Nguyen Van Thuan, a nephew of former South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem named by the Vatican in 1975 to serve as a bishop of Saigon. The city fell to Hanoi's forces soon after and Thuan was never allowed to take his post. He left Vietnam last year and is now in Rome.

Quang denied charges that the cleric had been expelled, but said that after Thuan left, "We told him it would not be convenient to return to Vietnam now without an agreement between the Vietnamese government and the Vatican."

Though Vietnamese communism has never been rigidly atheistic, Hanoi views the local Catholic church with suspicion because of its origins under French colonial rule and its close links with the defeated Saigon regime.

After the French were ousted in 1954, approximately 800,000 Catholics fled to the south. Some families became refugees again after 1975, when church assests were seized and suspect priests were arrested.

With close to 10 percent of its population Roman Catholic, Vietnam nonetheless has the second-largest church following in Asia after the Philippines.

But Hanoi still requires all Catholics to be members of the Union of Patriotic Catholics, a mass movement which like all social organizations in Vietnam comes under the umbrella of the communist party's Fatherland Front.

The Vatican, fearing that Vietnam would follow China's example and try to create an independent Catholic church, sent a letter to Vietnamese Catholic priests in May 1992 ordering them not to join political organizations.

Vietnamese officials, who say the fears are unfounded, hope to convince Celli that the letter should be withdrawn.

"There are profound differences between Vietnam and China in this regard," said Quang. "From the begining, we authorized our Episcopal Conference to have relations with the Vatican. Almost all the bishops have been there to see the Pope, to study, or receive medical treatment over the years."

Celli is making his third visit to Vietnam since Pope John Paul II in 1990 opened a dialogue with Hanoi, with which the Vatican has no diplomatic relations. He will spend a week in Hanoi and in Vinh, site of a seminary.

During previous visits, the Vatican reportedly proposed that the Pope should visit Vietnam, but Vietnamese authorities refused.

The situation of the church in Vietnam has improved under the primarily economic liberalization policy of "doi moi" (renovation) introduced in the late 1980s, with a wave of church building and restoration allowed in the past two years.

Packed churches not only in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, but also Hanoi testify to the church's resurging popularity, especially among the young.

But several prominent Catholics were arrested on subversion charges in 1990, while charges of a crackdown against Hmong Catholic leaders in the mountainous northwest were made as recently as last summer.

For its part, the state-recognized Episcopal Conference is testing the limits of "doi moi."

In October, the bishops addressed a petition to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet demanding notably an increase in the number of seminarians and the right to ordain priests without official approval.

It also called for freedoms of movement and assembly, and closer links with Rome.

Quang said he was optimistic the bishop's demands could be satisfied.

Vatican Envoy Arrives 1 Feb

BK0102161293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] HANOI, Feb 1 (AFP)—Vatican envoy Monsignor Claudio Celli arrived Monday on a week-long visit to Vietnam, which has at least six million Roman Catholics but no diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Vietnamese religious affairs officials said they notably expected to discuss with Celli the nomination of bishops or archbishops to fill at least six vacant posts.

Vietnam's Catholics have been without a cardinal since the 1990 death of the archbishop of Hanoi, while the authorities here insist on approving the Vatican's nominations to the local church hierarchy.

The officials said they also hoped to convince Celli that the Vatican should withdraw a 1992 letter directing Vietnamese priests not to join political bodies, including the Union of Patriotic Catholics to which all Vietnamese Catholics are expected to belong.

"The Vatican thought we wanted to create a state-run church like China's," said a senior member of the union. "That's completely untrue."

Though Hanoi recognizes the Pope as head of the Roman Catholic church worldwide, its strict controls over the church within Vietnam continue to generate friction with the Vatican.

Those controls have eased noticeably over the past two years under the communist government's reform policy, but Vietnam's bishops recently called for greater freedom of movement and assembly, more priests and seminarians, and wider contacts with Catholics abroad.

The visit is the third by an official Vatican delegation to Hanoi since November 1990, when Pope John Paul II decided to open a dialogue with Vietnam. Celli also headed the last delegation one year ago.

Hanoi sent its first official delegation to the Vatican in June 1992. The Vatican has reportedly proposed a visit to Vietnam by the Pope, but Vietnamese authorities have so far refused.

Vietnam's communist rulers have mended fences with a host of countries since October 1991, and are eager to normalize diplomatic relations with the Vatican. But they remain suspicious of the country's Catholic church for its origins under French colonial rule, its close ties with the former South Vietnamese government, and Pope John Paul's II perceived role in speeding the collapse of communism in eastern Europe.

Australia

Current Account Deficit Falls 25% in Dec

BK0202035693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Australia's trade position has registered a healthy improvement, according to the latest monthly statistics. In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit last December fell 25 percent to $1,221 million.

The decrease in the deficit was largely caused by a turnaround in Australia's merchandise trade position from deficit to surplus. Merchandise exports rose 2 percent in December, while imports fell 6 percent.

Papua New Guinea

Government May Pay To Deport Bougainville Rebels

BK2901071293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] will consider paying Solomon Islands to prosecute and deport representatives of the Bougainville secessionist movement who have set up office in Honiara. Sean Dorney reports that following talks in Port Moresby between officials of both countries, a recommendation will be put to the Wingti government that some of the court, prison, and deportation costs associated with the action in the Solomons' capital be met by PNG.

[Begin Dorney recording] The Solomon Islands acting secretary for foreign affairs, Leonard Maenu'u, says the BRA [Bouganville Revolutionary Army] representative in Honiara, Martin Miriori, and many other Bougainvillians there are illegal immigrants and clearly in breach of the law. He said the only reason they haven't been prosecuted yet is that the Solomon Islands doesn't have the resources.

[Maenu'u] In normal circumstances, the sending authority pays for all costs of deportation and these are the limitations that we have. And some outside people think that we are selfish but we have this real problem with us.

[Dorney] The acting foreign secretary said the Solomon Islands had asked PNG for help. PNG's foreign secretary, Gabriel Dusava, said he would be recommending financial assistance for the exercise. [end recording]

Bougainville Rebels Claim Six Killed

BK0102063493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] More violence has been reported in Bougainville. A statement issued by the Bougainville secessionists says Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defense Force troops are believed to have killed six people when they shot at a canoe at the mouth of the Laluai River early last Thursday.

The secessionist statement said one man survived the attack and is now in Arawa Hospital in a critical condition with a bullet wound in the head. The statement said the canoe was returning from Solomon Islands when it was fired on by soldiers patrolling the Laluai River.

The statement said that in another incident, a PNG mortar bomb hit a parked truck near Arawa, killing a woman and injuring 10 other people, most of them women who were returning from a fishing trip. The statement said the bomb was fired by troops based at Tunuru.

Solomon Islands

Official Rejects Report on Illegal Bougainvillians

BK0102061893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The Solomon Islands acting secretary for foreign affairs, Leonard Maenu'u, had rejected media report that he had singled out Bougainvillians as illegal immigrants living in the country.

Mr. Maenu'u was reported as saying the BRA [Bougainville Revolutionary Army] representative in Honiara, Martin Miriori, and other Bougainvillians in Solomon Islands were illegal immigrants and should be detained, prosecuted, and deported, but Mr. Maenu'u, who led the Solomon Islands delegation to last week's talks in Port Moresby on normalizing relations with Papua New Guinea said he had never singled out Mr. Miriori or other Bougainvillians.

He said he only made a general statement that all foreigners who are in Solomon Islands without proper documentation were illegal immigrants and in breach of immigration laws. Mr. Miriori says he will accept whatever action the Solomon Islands decides to pursue against him.